

# **LEEDS CITY REGION ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.00 PM ON TUESDAY, 13 JUNE 2023  
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON  
STREET, LEEDS**

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

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the requirements of the LEP Board Members' Code of Conduct, members have an obligation to review their register of interests before each meeting and to declare any interests.

If an interest has not been entered onto the LEP's register, then members must disclose the interest at any meeting at which they are present and where they have a disclosable interest in any matter being considered and where the matter is not a sensitive interest.

**3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2023**

(Pages 1 - 10)

**5. MAYOR'S UPDATE**

(Led by: Mayor Brabin)

**6. LEP EVOLUTION**

(Led by: Mark Roberts, Lead Officer: Caroline Allen)

(Pages 11 - 22)

**7. NOMINATION TO THE CA AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

(Led by: Mark Roberts, Lead Officer: Caroline Allen)

(Pages 23 - 36)

**8. ECONOMIC UPDATE**

(Led by: Mark Roberts, Lead Officer: Alan Reiss)

(Pages 37 - 40)

**9. ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

(Led By: Mark Roberts, Lead Officer: Phil Witcherley)  
(Pages 41 - 84)

**10. INVESTMENT ZONES**

Led by: Mark Roberts, Lead Officer: Liz Hunter  
(Pages 85 - 90)

**11. COMMITTEES UPDATE REPORT**

(Led by: Mark Roberts, Author: Myles Larrington)  
(Pages 91 - 98)

**12. WEST YORKSHIRE PLAN**

(Led By: Mark Roberts, Lead Author: Alan Reiss)  
(Pages 99 - 120)

**For Information**

**13. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY HELD ON  
16 MARCH 2023**

(Pages 121 - 132)

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting of the LEP Board will be 29 November 2023.  
This is subject to the approval of the proposed Calendar of Meetings 2023-24  
at the Combined Authority's Annual Meeting in June.



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEEDS CITY REGION ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8 MARCH 2023 AT COMMITTEE ROOM 1, WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS

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### Present:

Mark Roberts (Interim Chair)

Mayor Tracy Brabin  
Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe  
Councillor James Lewis  
Councillor Michael Graham  
Nicky Chance-Thompson  
Amir Hussain  
Mandy Ridyard

Andrew Wright  
Beckie Hart

Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership  
West Yorkshire Combined Authority  
Bradford Council  
Leeds City Council  
Wakefield Council  
Private Sector Representative  
Private Sector Representative  
Private Sector Representative (SME Champion)  
Private Sector Representative  
Business Representative (CBI – Confederation of British Industry)

### In attendance:

Ben Still (Chief Executive)  
Alan Reiss (Director)  
Philip Witcherley (Interim Director)  
Sarah Bowes (Officer)  
Myles Larrington (Officer)  
Thomas Purvis (Officer)  
Amanda Rumbelow (Officer)  
Kate Thompson (Officer)

West Yorkshire Combined Authority  
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West Yorkshire Combined Authority

### 1. Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming two new members to the Board, Councillor Michael Graham and Nicky Chance-Thompson. He noted that Councillor Graham was the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport on Wakefield Council and a member of the Combined Authority's Culture, Heritage and Sport Committee. The Chair further noted that Nicky Chance-Thompson was CEO of the Piece Hall in Halifax and was also the Deputy Chair of the Culture, Heritage and Sport Committee.

The Chair also thanked Andrew Wright, a private sector member of the LEP

Board, for his contribution over the last nine years after reaching the end of his term of service.

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Cooper, Asma Iqbal, Councillor Shabir Pandor, Professor Simon Pringle, Kamran Rashid, Councillor Tim Swift, Kully Thiarai, Councillor Andrew Waller, Peter Mucklow and Tom Riordan.

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

Amir Hussain declared an interest in Item 7, he advised the Board that he had his own data dashboard.

## **4. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

There were no agenda items which required the exclusion of the public and press.

## **5. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2022**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board held on 1 December 2022 be approved.

## **6. Mayor's Update**

The Mayor presented her latest update to the LEP Board highlighting the following matters:

- The Mayor observed that it was International Women's Day and explained that she would be hosting an event on 9 March 2023 alongside Sally Wainwright, the creator of Happy Valley, to celebrate the impact of women in West Yorkshire's communities. This year's theme was Digital, Innovation and Tech for gender equality. The Mayor also hosted an International Women's Day Dinner on the evening of 8 March 2023.
- Latest figures showed the UK had dropped five places on the international league table for women in work. Domestic childcare costs were the highest in the OECD at 33%. The Mayor explained that, while she did not currently have powers to address this directly, she would continue to encourage better, more affordable and high-quality childcare for families.

- The Mayor attended the Transport for the North Conference on 6 March 2023 to discuss concerns around the reliability of train services. For example, one rail company, TransPennine Express, cancelled 1,700 services in the first four weeks of this year. If there was no improvement, it was estimated that over 23,000 services would be cancelled by the end of this year. The Mayor noted that this was having a detrimental economic impact within West Yorkshire. She confirmed that she had been speaking with ministers, management and unions to encourage a resolution.
- The bus market remained challenging as government had agreed to extend revenue funding for another three months. The Mayor noted that this was a short-term solution, especially as one local bus provider, First Bus, had decided to implement reductions in the number of drivers and buses on to more profitable, high frequency routes rather than prioritising community connections.
- Data on the first three months of the Mayor's Fares initiative, which capped bus fares at £2.00, showed that 7.2 million journeys had benefited since it was introduced in September and had saved the public around £3.6 million in fare costs. The data also showed that bus usage had grown from 81% pre-pandemic to 87% in December.
- The Combined Authority continued to press ahead with plans for better transport in the region, which included the mass transit plan, as Leeds was the only major city in Europe without mass transit. The Mayor noted that this would not just benefit Leeds, but the whole of West Yorkshire.
- Last month, the Mayor attended the Arab Health conference in Dubai at the invitation of the Department for International Trade (DIT) and she was pleased that many West Yorkshire businesses were in attendance representing the region. The Mayor championed the 600-business strong health and life sector within West Yorkshire.
- The Mayor also recently attended a meeting in London with The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP and senior business leaders about the need to drive growth back into our economy and how mayors could make a difference to this. The attendees included the CEO of Microsoft UK, Mark Carney the former Governor of the Bank of England, the General Director of the CBI, the CEO of Octopus Energy, and British businesswoman Deborah Meaden. The Mayor made the case for further deeper wider devolution for mayors to provide them powers to support growth and greater opportunities.
- The Mayor noted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP was scheduled to deliver his Spring Statement on 15 March 2023. The Mayor confirmed she had written to him urging the government to extend energy support to households within West

Yorkshire beyond April.

The Chair thanked the Mayor for her update.

## **7. LEP Governance**

The Board considered a report of the Director of Strategy, Communications and Intelligence regarding changes to governance arrangements.

The Chair introduced the item and officers then presented the report to the Board. They explained that:

- The publication of the Levelling Up White Paper in February 2022 provided clarity that LEPs within Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) areas would be integrated into the MCA. Following this, in July 2022, a LEP Integration Plan (IP) for West Yorkshire was submitted to government. A request for further information was made in September 2022, which was provided and a final version of the LEP Integration Plan submitted.
- Due to Ministerial changes, there was a significant delay in government endorsing the plan. A formal letter confirming that government endorsed the IP was received on 17 January 2023.
- The Boards endorsement was sought to finalise the Articles, Terms of Reference and Recruitment and Appointment Procedure and to make such consequential amendments to the Authority's Constitution as was necessary. The Board was also asked to set a date from which the proposed changes are brought into effect.
- Recruitment of a new LEP Chair cannot take place until these governance changes are in place. As part of these changes, a revised role profile for the LEP Chair was set out in the paper for comments and consideration.

At the Combined Authority meeting in February 2023, it was agreed that a remuneration panel would be convened to make recommendations to the Mayor and the Combined Authority as to the allowance that will be payable to the LEP Chair.

The Chief Executive explained that the draft terms of reference for the LEP Chair's profile reflect what government have asked the role to reflect and elements that the Combined Authority has found successful in the past. As the Board is moving away from the existing growth model, whereby the LEP had the ability to allocate growth funds, the new role is much more about leadership, offering independent advice to the Mayor, promoting the interests of the region and being a central business voice.

The Combined Authority has had an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) examine and make recommendations of the appropriate remunerative rates for the role and these figures will be published shortly. The Chief Executive confirmed that the recommendations suggest a reduction in days, but with the

day rate remaining the same. The nature of the new role profile is reflected in these recommendations, which will be considered by the Combined Authority meeting on 16 March 2023.

It is proposed that recruitment for the LEP Chair and vacant LEP Board members commences shortly thereafter.

Members made several observations as follows:

- Several members noted that reduction in expected days may have a detrimental impact on the range of people who might be willing to apply for the role and deter applicants from diverse backgrounds.
- Members suggested that a pro-rata daily payment could be considered for the Chair, depending upon the additional work and responsibilities are undertaken.
- The changing nature of the Chair's role, and that it will become a Mayoral appointment were noted. Members felt that the LEP Chair's role needed to be able to provide independent advice. Furthermore, the West Yorkshire region has a reputation for having a strong Chair and members felt that this should continue.
- It was felt that the recruitment of more private sector members should have a focus on attendance requirements to ensure that new members are as active as possible.

**Resolved:**

- i. Members of the Board considered and provides feedback on the proposed LEP governance arrangements, and in particular the draft Articles at Appendix 1, draft Terms of Reference at Appendix 2 and the revised Recruitment and Appointment Procedure for Private Sector Representatives as set out at Appendix 3, and noted that the Head of Legal & Governance Services will finalise the same and update the Combined Authority's Constitution accordingly thereafter (in consultation with the Mayor and the Chair of the LEP Board as appropriate) to come into effect from 13 March 2023.
- ii. Members of the Board provided feedback on the draft LEP Chair Role Profile provided at appendix 4 and the draft Board Member Role Profile provided at appendix 5.
- iii. Members of the Board provided feedback on the future role of the LEP and proposed portfolios for private sector members.

**8. Economic Update**

The Board considered a report on the latest economic and business

intelligence, particularly relating to the cost of living and doing business.

Officers introduced the report and explained that:

- On 9 January 2023, the Government announced the Energy Bill Discount Scheme, which would support eligible non-domestic properties with the rising cost of energy. This would replace the Energy Bill Relief Scheme that had been in place since September 2022, and would end on 31 March 2023.
- The Energy Bill Discount Scheme would work by offering businesses and public sector organisations discounted prices for wholesale gas and electricity. This support would 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. While all businesses would receive some form of discount, there were additional discounts for those operating in energy intensive industries. However, the scheme represented a reduction in overall support from the previous scheme of about 66%.
- CPI inflation rose by 10.1% in the year to January 2023. It was anticipated that inflation would fall sharply this year, falling to around 5% by the end of 2023.
- In January 2023, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced that its forecasts showed the UK to be the only advanced economy in the world to experience a recession in 2023. The IMF predict that the UK economy would contract by 0.6% during the year, whilst even sanctioned-hit Russia would see output grow in 2023.
- Gas futures prices have fallen by 80% from their peak in August 2022, providing a clear route down for energy prices in the coming months.

Members made the following observations:

- It was observed that there continued to be concerns from a retail perspective, given the high numbers of low-cost items in household budgets – this was up to 90% recently. This indicated that disposal income for households within West Yorkshire remained under strain due to the cost-of-living crisis.
- Many companies were facing financial strain due to having to pay back Coronavirus loans issued during the pandemic. This was leading more small businesses to go out of business as they could not afford to pay this back.
- A significant barrier to people getting into work was childcare costs and more needed to be done to address this.
- It was important to use appropriate measures to assess productivity within the West Yorkshire region to ensure this accurately reflected overall macroeconomic activity.

**Resolved:** That the latest intelligence on the region's economic performance



and wider national context and the asks of Government be noted along with feedback from members.

## **9. Committees Update Report**

The Board considered a report providing an update on the work of the six Thematic Committees as followed:

- Andrew Wright, Deputy Chair of the Business, Economy and Innovation Committee, presented an update on the proceedings of the Committee which met on 24 January 2023. The Committee considered a range of reports to support businesses in the regional and growth the economy, including the emerging West Yorkshire Plan and aligned Economic Strategy.
- Nicky Chance-Thompson presented an update on the Culture, Heritage and Sport Committee which had met on 26 January 2023. The Committee had an agenda covering a range of reports including Economic and Sector Reporting, the West Yorkshire Plan, Skills and Business Support Delivery and a number of project approvals including the Leeds 2023 Women of the World, Women of West Yorkshire scheme which would proceed with a scheme value of £1,500.00. The Committee also received a presentation from representatives of the East Bierley Community Sports Association who provided a progress report on the development of their site, including plans to increase provision for women and girls. Representatives from Bradford UK City of Culture 2025 gave a presentation on their plans to make the event a landmark moment for the city and the wider region.
- The Chair, Mark Roberts, presented an update on the proceedings of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee which had met on 10 January 2023. The Committee considered a range of reports relating to the Mayoral pledges to tackle the climate emergency and meeting the 2038 net zero carbon target.
- Councillor James Lewis, Chair of the Employment and Skills Committee, presented an update on the proceedings of the Committee which had met on 23 January 2023. The Committee considered a range of information including the West Yorkshire Plan and a paper on Economic Strategy. The Committee also considered a paper on the Adult Education Budget which set out what had been achieved since was devolved, as well as the immediate priorities for the current service design. Papers on the current performance of employment and skills programmes and future investment of programmes were heard by the Committee along with draft recommendations of the Mayor's Green Jobs Taskforce which was due to produce its final report in March.
- Amir Hussain, Deputy Chair of the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee, presented the update on the proceedings of the committee

which had met on 5 January 2023. The Committee considered a range of reports including an Economic Update, the West Yorkshire Plan and Programme Development to develop a portfolio of workstreams and programmes under Investment Priority 3. The Committee also examined a report about Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure which included a number of development programmes. Members also considered a report to add two additional Spatial Priority Areas (SPAs) in the current set of priority locations agreed across West Yorkshire – these were Huddersfield Station to Stadium Enterprise Corridor and the North Halifax Growth Area. Additional reports covered the Community Retrofit Hub Scheme, several project approvals and a report on the findings of the Safer Parks research and the next steps.

- The Chair, Mark Roberts, noted an update on the proceedings of the Transport Committee which had met on 10 February 2023. The Committee had considered a number of reports including bus service funding and the development of the Bus Network Plan, an update on the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), an update on The Mayor’s Big Bus Chat, the development of a new Mayor’s West Yorkshire Transport Plan, a report on the Active Travel Fund and a short update on rail matters. Following the Levelling up Fund 2 (LUF2) outcome announcement by the Government, the Combined Authority was successful in securing over £41m to deliver a package of schemes to deliver improvements to bus journeys and new active travel measures.

**Resolved:** That the updates from the Thematic Committees be noted.

## 10. Digital Update

The Board considered a report of the Interim Head of Inclusive Economy, Skills and Culture which provided an update on the recent activity relating to digital across the region and sought members’ views on the next steps.

Officers presented the report and explained that:

- It was proposed to refresh the Digital Framework and to support this refresh, mapping of the digital tech sector in West Yorkshire has been commissioned.
- Digital Clusters Research – the digital mapping would map the entire West Yorkshire regional economy and provide a database of all businesses for future use by the Combined Authority.
- LEP Deep Dive on digital – took place on 12 December 2022. Officers noted several key discussions from this session and confirmed they would be taking this feedback forward.
- Local Digital Partnership – is in its third and final year of DCMS funding. In creating the Digital Skills Plan, the LDSP had accomplished their core targets.
- Launch of the Digital Skills Plan – this was launched on 28 November

2022. This would inform the development of a comprehensive pipeline of digital skills projects. This included a roundtable of events.

Members of the Board thanked the team, led by Marianne Hewitt, for the work they had undertaken to compile the report and initiatives.

**Resolved:** That the next steps were noted following feedback from members.

## 11. Langthwaite Enterprise Zone

The Board considered a report on the proposed enabling works to be undertaken at Langthwaite Enterprise Zone (EZ), South Kirkby, which was owned by the Combined Authority.

Officers presented the report and explained that:

- The Combined Authority had a two-phase Enterprise Zone programme covering ten designated employment sites across West Yorkshire. Phase 1 was in Leeds, together with nine sites in Phase 2 across Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield, which included the Langthwaite Enterprise Zone at South Kirkby.
- The Enterprise Zone programme seeks to maximise development of new commercial space within the region to support attraction of new business, expansion of existing businesses and the creation of new jobs.
- At the February 2023 meeting, the Combined Authority noted an indicative funding package for the Langthwaite project which included (but was not limited to) potential use of residual capital funding from the Growing Places Fund and income related to other Enterprise Zone sites. An approval was also granted for £250,000 in initial resourcing capacity to enter into the CoSTAR bidding process and to enable development of the Langthwaite site, funding through residual Growing Places Fund monies.

The Board was asked to note the contents of the report and the next steps for the Langthwaite Enterprise Zone.

**Resolved:**

- i. The Board noted the contents of the report, including next steps for the Langthwaite Enterprise Zone phase 1 project, and provided any comments.
- ii. The Board noted the indicative funding package for Langthwaite enabling works, as detailed in Section 6 of the submitted report.
- iii. The Board noted the recent bid submission to UK Research and Innovation to create a national innovation centre in the creative industries located on the Langthwaite EZ site (Phase 2) and provide

any comments.

**12. Draft Minutes of the Combined Authority held on 2 February 2023**

The Chair asked members of the Board to note that the draft Minutes of the Combined Authority held on 2 February 2023 were included in the pack of papers for information.

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted the next meeting of the LEP Board would be held on 13 June 2023.



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**Report to:** Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

**Date:** 13 June 2023

**Subject:** **LEP Evolution**

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**Led By:** Mark Roberts, Interim Chair

**Lead Officer:** Caroline Allen, Head of Legal and Governance Services

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## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. To note the **local authority representatives** and substitutes in **Appendix 1** appointed to the LEP Board.
- 1.2. To receive the recommendations in **Appendix 1** in relation to private sector membership of the LEP Board.
- 1.3. To note the update on the **recruitment process for private sector LEP Board members** and to delegate authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive to make appointments as appropriate on behalf of the Board and to update the Board accordingly. A recruitment panel will be convened with public and private sector representation.
- 1.4. To note the update on the vacancies for the **LEP Chair** and **LEP Deputy Chair** and note the process in place for recruitment of a Mayoral business advisor and Chair of the LEP Board.
- 1.5. To confirm the member of the LEP Board to represent and engage with the SME business community and Chair the Business Communications Group in the role of **SME Champion**.
- 1.6. To confirm a **LEP Diversity Champion**.
- 1.7. To confirm the member of the LEP Board who will act as **Trade & Investment Champion**.
- 1.8. To confirm a **co-optee** member and a named substitute co-optee member to the LEP Board to represent the Business Representatives Group.
- 1.9. To confirm two **co-optee** members terms of appointment be extended for a further year.
- 1.10. To consider and provide feedback on the future Board arrangements.

## 2. Information

### Background

- 2.1 In West Yorkshire, the integration of the LEP fully into the Mayoral Combined Authority is now complete.
- 2.2 However, at the Spring Budget in March 2023, the Government announced that Local Enterprise Partnerships would no longer be supported from 2024, and that the role they have previously played would be brought into Mayoral Combined Authorities.
- 2.3 As previously reported and discussed, the model of partnership between the public and private sector that we have in our region is held up at a national level as good practice.
- 2.4 It is therefore vital that this model of deep partnership continues, albeit in an evolved form. The private sector will remain represented within the Mayoral Combined Authority and its committees and will continue to be a fundamental partner in decision-making and delivery. A verbal update on further details of this process will be provided at the meeting, but our commitment to keeping a strong partnership with the private sector will remain through the evolution of this model.
- 2.5 Future intentions for the Board were set out in an open letter at **Appendix 2** from the Mayor, LEP Chair and Chief Executive dated 4 April 2023 with commitment to continue the private and public sector partnership as set out in the letter.
- 2.6 To that end, the role of the Chair of the LEP will evolve to be the key business advisor to the Mayor and Combined Authority. Recruitment for this position will begin in the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> June, and we have engaged senior recruitment specialists Gatenby Sanderson to support this work.

### Local authority representatives

- 2.7 Whilst the work to recruit a new chair is ongoing, there are a series of issues to address through the rest of this paper.
- 2.8 Article 10 of the Combined Authority Constitution provides for the West Yorkshire Mayor ex-officio to be a local authority representative on the LEP Board and for the Mayor's substitute to be ex-officio the Deputy Mayor.
- 2.9 The Article also provides for the following local authorities to appoint a **local authority representative** and **substitute** to the LEP Board:
  - City of **Bradford** Metropolitan District Council
  - Borough Council of **Calderdale**
  - **Kirklees** Metropolitan Council
  - **Leeds** City Council
  - Council of the City of **Wakefield**

- 2.10 Attached as **Appendix 1** to this report is a schedule of the local authority representatives and substitutes appointed to the LEP Board.

Private Sector representatives

- 2.11 **Appendix 1** to this report also sets out a schedule of the private sector representatives currently serving on the LEP Board, and their terms of office. Article 10 of the Combined Authority Constitution does not provide for substitutes for private sector representatives.
- 2.12 The term of office for three of the private sector representatives has reached the end of the first term of three years. It is proposed that a further three-year term is agreed for these members as set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.13 The Board is currently carrying a number of private sector vacancies. It was previously agreed that recruitment to LEP Board vacancies would not be undertaken until the governance changes stated within the LEP Integration Plan are in place. These were approved at the March meetings of both the LEP Board and the Combined Authority. As part of the governance changes, the Private Sector Recruitment Process has also been updated in line with the LEP Integration Plan and was approved at these meetings also.
- 2.14 These approvals then allowed for the recruitment of Board members to commence as soon as possible. As at the 8 March Board meeting the Board had five private sector member vacancies, however since that time both Amir Hussain and Mark Roberts have confirmed their intentions to step down from the Board. Therefore there is the requirement to fill the seven vacancies with individuals who would ideally, but not exclusively, come from the voluntary and community, fintech, healthtech, engineering and clean growth/environmental technologies sectors in order for the Board to reflect the diverse communities, businesses and geography of West Yorkshire.
- 2.15 The opportunity was promoted via an online recruitment pack and shared across numerous digital channels including social media, LinkedIn, via Board Members, the Business Communications Group, Local Authority Chief Executives and other networks throughout April and May 2023. The advertisement included positive images of people of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic heritage and women, with a view to attracting a more diverse range of candidates, including young people.
- 2.16 Shortlisting of candidates to fill these vacancies has now taken place, and interview dates for the new LEP Board members are being arranged. A recruitment panel will be convened with public and private sector representation. Given the recruitment is taking place between the cycle of the formal LEP Board meetings, the Board is asked to delegate authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive to make appointments as appropriate on behalf of the Board and to update the Board accordingly.

LEP Chair and Deputy Chair

2.17 Article 10 of the Combined Authority Constitution provides for the Mayor to appoint:

- a private sector representative as Chair of the LEP, and
- a private sector representative as a Deputy Chair of the LEP.

2.18 The LEP Board at its meeting on 31 March 2022 considered a report on 'LEP Next Steps', following which further activity has been undertaken. The focus of the next steps is the recruitment process leading to the appointment of a new Chair. Adverts for this role will go live on June 5<sup>th</sup> with a deadline of the 30<sup>th</sup> June, with the expectation that the new postholder will be in role by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July.

#### Appointment of Deputy Chair

2.19 With Mark Roberts standing down there is now a vacancy for a private sector Deputy Chair. In accordance with Article 10 of the Combined Authority Constitution the Mayor will make an appointment following the appointment of the Chair.

#### SME LEP Board member

2.20 In accordance with the Assurance Framework requirement, the LEP needs to appoint a member of the LEP Board to represent and engage with the SME business community and act as **Chair of the Business Communications Group** and the **SME Champion**. A verbal update will be provided for the Board on this matter at the meeting.

#### Diversity Champion

2.21 In accordance with the best practice set out in the Assurance Framework the LEP Board is required to appoint a private sector Board member to act as the **LEP Diversity Champion**. A verbal update will be provided for the Board on this matter at the meeting.

#### Trade & Investment Champion

2.22 The Board also approved at the 8 March 2023 meeting to appoint a **Trade & Investment Champion** from its private sector members. Once appointed the new LEP Chair will make this appointment in consultation with the Mayor.

#### Co-optee Members on the LEP Board

#### Business Representatives Group

2.23 The LEP Board has previously appointed co-optee members to the Board from business representative organisations to support the LEP's and Combined Authority's agenda and core priorities and in recognition of the key role that they play in supporting business growth in the region. Article 10 of The Combined



Authority Constitution provides that the term of office for each co-optee will be one year, subject to any exceptional circumstances. It is proposed that Board members approve the proposal for a nominated business representative organisation and named member to fulfil this role from June 2023 namely **Barney Mynott** of the **Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)**.

- 2.24 It is also proposed that **Martin Hathaway** of the **Mid Yorkshire Chamber** be the named substitute for Barney Mynott in order to ensure business representation at each meeting of the LEP Board.

#### Other co-optee Members

- 2.25 The Board currently has two further co-optee Members. **Asma Iqbal**, holds the role of LEP Diversity Champion and **Nicky Chance-Thompson** who is also Deputy Chair of the Culture, Heritage & Sport Committee. The term of these co-optee Member appointments expire in June and therefore the Board's approval is sought for these to be extended for a **further year**.

#### Future Board Arrangements

- 2.26 It is recognised that given the evolution of the LEP into the Combined Authority, there needs to be a level of flexibility as to the forums in which LEP members come together to help shape that new model and therefore it may be appropriate to hold fewer formal meetings and more informal ones. The views of the Board are sought on the format and frequency of meetings going forward during 2023/24.

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

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

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

- 4.1. All members of the LEP Board will be expected to promote the cause of inclusive growth.

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

- 5.1. The role of Diversity Champion is key to ensuring that the LEP acts in line with the Combined Authority's diversity statement.

### **6. Financial Implications**

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

### **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1. All proposed appointments in this report are in accordance with the Combined Authority Constitution and relevant Government requirements and best practice relating to LEP Board membership.

## 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

That the LEP Board:

- 10.1. Notes the local authority representatives and substitutes appointed to the LEP Board set out in **Appendix 1** of this report.
- 10.2 Confirms the current private sector representatives on the LEP Board as set out in **Appendix 1** of this report and agrees to extend the terms of office for Prof. Shirley Congdon, Kamran Rashid and Kully Thiarai, each for a further three-year term to 28 February 2026.
- 10.3 Notes that recruitment for new private sector LEP Board members is underway and delegates authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive to make appointments as appropriate on behalf of the Board and to update the Board accordingly.
- 10.4 Notes the update on the vacancies for the **LEP Chair** and **LEP Deputy Chair**.
- 10.5 Confirms the member of the LEP Board to represent and engage with the SME business community and Chair the Business Communications Group in the role of **SME Champion**.
- 10.6 Confirms a **LEP Diversity Champion**.
- 10.7 Notes the recommendation in relation to the member of the LEP Board who will act as **Trade & Investment Champion**.
- 10.8 Appoints **Barney Mynott** of the **Federation of Small Businesses** (FSB) as a **co-optee** member to the LEP Board to represent the Business Representatives Group and **Martin Hathaway** of the **Mid Yorkshire Chamber** as the named substitute for Barney Mynott for a one year period.
- 10.9 Approves the extension of the terms of appointment of **co-optee** members Asma Iqbal and Nicky Chance-Thompson by a further year.
- 10.10 Provides feedback on the format and frequency of meetings during 2023/24.

## 11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

**Appendix 1:** Local Authority representatives and substitutes appointed to the LEP Board and Private Sector LEP Board members

**Appendix 2:** Open letter from the Mayor, LEP Chair and Ben Still on the future of LEPs

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## LEP Board Membership 2023 / 2024

Local Authority Representatives							
	Mayor (Voting – ex-officio)	Bradford (Voting)	Calderdale (Voting)	Kirklees (Voting)	Leeds (Voting)	Wakefield (Voting)	York (Non-voting observer)
Member	Tracy Brabin (L)	Susan Hinchcliffe (L)	Jane Scullion (L)	Shabir Pandor (L)	James Lewis (L)	Michael Graham (L)	Claire Douglas (L)
Substitute Member	James Lewis (L)	Imran Khan (L)	Tim Swift (L)	Cathy Scott (L)	Debra Coupar (L)	Matthew Morley (L)	Peter Kilbane (L)

Private Sector Representatives						
6	Member (Voting)	Sector	Term of office	Member (Voting)	Sector	Term of office
	Prof. Shirley Congdon	Higher Education (University of Bradford)	25 February 2023  <b>Recommendation:</b> To endorse her membership of the Board and to <b>extend the term of office to 28 February 2026 (in accordance with a further 3-year option)</b>	Mandy Ridyard	Manufacturing (Produmax Ltd)	21 November 2025
	Kamran Rashid	Third Sector (Impact Hub)	25 February 2023  <b>Recommendation:</b> To endorse his membership of the Board and to <b>extend the term of office to 28 February 2026 (in accordance with a further 3-year option)</b>	Kully Thiarai	Culture (Leeds 2023)	25 February 2023  <b>Recommendation:</b> To endorse her membership of the Board and to <b>extend the term of office to 28 February 2026 (in accordance with a further 3-year option)</b>

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[Open letter to the business community]

Dear Colleague,

In West Yorkshire, we have a long and proud history of the private and public sectors working in partnership to grow our economy and create a fairer, more prosperous and sustainable society. Before the pandemic struck, this partnership had led to our region being the only net contributor to the UK economy in the North.

The Leeds City Region LEP has long been one of the most diverse and successful LEPs in the country, leading on the delivery of the £1bn Growth Deal.

The Government announced in its Spring Budget that Local Enterprise Partnerships would no longer be supported from 2024, and that the role they have previously played would be brought into Mayoral Combined Authorities.

In our region, this means completing the process that has already been underway to integrate the LEP fully into the Mayoral Combined Authority. Throughout the integration process all partners have been clear that the strong partnership between the public and private sector in West Yorkshire must be maintained. The model that we have in our region is held up at a national level as best practice and therefore any changes made must not destabilise this.

Whether the issue has been how to encourage more people to start and grow businesses, or to provide services to develop skills, how to improve transport in our region, or investment to tackle the climate emergency, the private and public sectors have sat side by side in shaping and taking decisions about our strategies and our investments.

We want this model of deep partnership to continue, because we know that only by the private and public sectors working together can we make the change we want to see: to make our region globally competitive whilst also providing opportunity so that everyone can reach their potential.

The private sector will therefore remain represented within the Mayoral Combined Authority and its committees, and will remain a fundamental partner in decision-making and delivery.

We are grateful to every member of the private sector who provides their time freely to help shape the future of our region. We are now recruiting for new private sector members to go on the next stage of the journey with us. We are looking for people who would like to share their experience, knowledge, connections and passion for the region, in order to help us deliver better outcomes for the people and businesses of West Yorkshire.

We know that the Government's announcement was greeted with concern that some places might seek to roll back on commitments to ensure the private sector voice was heard. Please be reassured that in West Yorkshire, this will not be the case.

Best wishes,



Tracy Brabin  
Mayor of West Yorkshire



Mark Roberts  
Interim Chair Leeds City Region LEP



Ben Still  
Chief Executive

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**Report to:** Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

**Date:** 13 June 2023

**Subject:** **Nomination to the Combined Authority and Outside Bodies**

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**Led By:** Mark Roberts, Interim Chair

**Lead Officer:** Caroline Allen, Head of Legal and Governance Services

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## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To approve the recommendation in relation to a LEP Member and Substitute LEP Member to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (“the Combined Authority”).
- 1.2 To approve nominations of LEP Board members to committees of the Combined Authority and to agree future arrangements for filling vacancies.
- 1.3 To agree nominations in relation to private sector membership to committees of the Combined Authority and to recommend these to the Combined Authority.
- 1.4 To note and agree the recommendation in relation to a member and substitute member to the Transport for the North (TfN) Partnership Board.
- 1.5 To note the LEP’s representative to other external bodies.

## 2. Information

### **Nomination of LEP Member and Substitute**

- 2.1 The West Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2014 (“the 2014 Order”) although modified by West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Election of Mayor and Functions) Order 2021 continues to provide that the Combined Authority shall appoint a member of the LEP nominated by the LEP to be a Combined Authority Member, (“the LEP Member”). The Combined Authority must also appoint a Substitute LEP Member, to act in their absence. It is proposed to the Board that once appointed, the new LEP Chair will become the LEP Member and the Deputy Chair once appointed will be the Substitute LEP Member.

## Nominations to Combined Authority committees

2.2 As the LEP Board are aware, the structure of the Combined Authority includes thematic decision making 'portfolio' committees. These comprise:

- Business, Economy & Innovation Committee
- Climate, Energy & Environment Committee
- Culture, Sport, Arts & Creative Industries Committee
- Employment and Skills Committee
- Finance, Resources & Corporate Committee
- Place, Regeneration & Housing Committee
- Transport Committee

### LEP Board membership on Combined Authority and its committees

2.3 A number of private sector LEP Board members are members of the thematic committees and the Deputy Chair for each of these is a LEP Board member. The current LEP Board membership is set out in the schedule at Appendix 1 for consideration and approval by the Board. There are currently a number of vacancies which have arisen as a result of members terms expiring on the Board. In particular:

- **Business Economy & Innovation Committee** – one vacancy in membership (to hold the role of **Deputy Chair – voting rights**)
- **Climate, Energy & Environment Committee** – one vacancy in membership (to hold the role of **Deputy Chair – voting rights**)
- **Place, Regeneration & Housing Committee** – one vacancy in membership (to hold the role of **Deputy Chair – voting rights**)
- **Transport Committee** – two vacancies in private sector membership – one position with voting rights.

2.4 Given the current live recruitment process for LEP Board members, it is proposed that vacancies including in relation to Committee Deputy Chair appointments are made by the Combined Authority following the completion of the Board Member recruitment in consultation with the newly appointed LEP Chair and the Mayor.

### Nominations to the Combined Authority for private sector (non LEP Board members) representation on Combined Authority committees

2.5 Appendix 1 to this report also sets out the current private sector (non LEP Board) membership of the Combined Authority's committees. A number of these membership terms are coming to the end of the first three years and the appendix includes proposals to extend these where appropriate for a further three years. The Board are asked to confirm the continuation of existing nominations to the Combined Authority committees and the extension of terms as set out at Appendix 1 for consideration at the Combined Authority meeting on 22 June 2023.

## **Transport for the North (TfN)**

- 2.6 TfN seek a nomination each year at their annual meeting for a representative from each of the 11 local enterprise partnerships within the TfN area to be appointed to the TfN Partnership Board. A substitute is also required. The practice to date is that TfN Board co-opts each LEP representative on the Partnership Board as a non-voting member of the TfN Board. The Board is asked to delegate authority to the Mayor and LEP Chair to nominate the proposed LEP Member and named substitute following the completion of the Board recruitment.

## **LEP Chair appointment to other bodies**

- 2.7 The Board are asked to note LEP appointments to other bodies as follows:

Once appointed the new LEP Chair will become the LEP Member on the Northern Powerhouse 11 (NP11) being the grouping of the 11 northern LEPs. Ben Still, in his capacity as Chief Executive, to be the alternate.

Once appointed the new LEP Chair will also become the LEP Member on the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund Strategic Oversight Board. Ben Still, in his capacity as Chief Executive, is the alternate.

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

- 3.1. A LEP Board member and other private sector representatives are to be nominated to the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee.

## **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.1. Inclusivity is embedded in the objectives of each thematic committee of the Combined Authority.

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

- 5.1. Inclusivity is embedded in the objectives of each thematic committee of the Combined Authority.

## **6. Financial Implications**

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

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1. The 2021 Order does not require the Combined Authority's LEP Member or their substitute to be a private sector representative. However, private sector representation secures direct private sector input into the Combined Authority membership.

- 7.2 By law, the Combined Authority's LEP Member must be non-voting. However, the voting Combined Authority Members may resolve that this provision does not apply.

## **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**

That the LEP Board:

- 10.1 Approves the proposal that the LEP Board Chair once appointed is the LEP Member on the Combined Authority and that the LEP Board Deputy Chair once appointed is the Substitute LEP Member on the Combined Authority.
- 10.2 Confirms its current nominations for private sector LEP Board membership (and roles of Deputy Chairs) on the Combined Authority's committees as set out in Appendix 1.
- 10.3 Delegates authority to the Mayor and LEP Chair (once appointed) to make further nominations to the Combined Authority for private sector LEP Board membership (and roles of Deputy Chairs) on Combined Authority committees following the outcome of the current recruitment process.
- 10.4 Nominates non LEP Board private sector representatives to committees to be appointed by the Combined Authority at its Annual Meeting, in accordance with Appendix 1 including extending the terms where appropriate.
- 10.5 Notes and agrees the proposals as set out in this report as to the arrangements in relation to a LEP Board member to be a member of TfN's Partnership Board, together with a substitute, noting that TfN current practice is to co-opt the LEP's representative on the Partnership Board to the TfN Board.
- 10.6 Notes the LEP Board appointments to other external bodies of NP11 (Northern Powerhouse 11) and NPIF SOB (Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund Strategic Oversight Board).

## **11. Background Documents**

- 11.1 There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## 12. Appendices

**Appendix 1:** Private Sector Representative nominations (both LEP Board members and non LEP Board private sector representatives) to the CA Committees

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**Private Sector representatives on CA Committees (as at June 2023):**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Private Sector Representative</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Current term of Office</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>	
29	<b>Business, Economy &amp; Innovation</b>	Fara Butt	Shire Beds Ltd	Manufacturing	30 June 2025 (with a further 3-year option)	
		Deb Hetherington	Bruntwood Scitech	Digital/Property	30 June 2025 (with a further 3-year option)	
		Asma Iqbal	Chadwick Lawrence Ltd	Professional Services	30 June 2025 (with a further 3-year option)	
		Simon Langdale	Synthotech Limited	Engineering	30 June 2025 (with a further 3-year option)	
		Karl Oxford	African & Caribbean Business Ventures Ltd	Third Sector	21 October 2024	
		Richard Paxman	Paxman Coolers Ltd	Manufacturing	30 April 2023 (with a further 3-year option)	To endorse his membership of the Committee and to <b>extend the term of office to 30 April 2026 (in accordance with a further 3-year option)</b>
		Paul Price	IBM	Digital	30 June 2025 (with a further 3-year option)	
		<b>Mandy Ridyard LEP Board Member</b>	Produmax Ltd	Manufacturing	24 June 2024	
		Bobby Thandi	XR Games	Digital	30 June 2025 (with a further 3-year option)	

**Private Sector representatives on CA Committees (as at June 2023):**

	Alan Williams	Camira Fabrics	Textiles/ Manufacturing	30 June 2025 (with a further 3-year option)	
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**Private Sector representatives on CA Committees (as at June 2023):**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Private Sector Representative</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Current term of Office</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>
<b>Employment &amp; Skills</b>	Milton Brown	Kirklees Local TV	Creative Industries	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Michelle Chappell Dixon	SCS Building Solutions	Construction	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
31	Tim Craven	TransUnion UK	Digital	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
	<b>Prof Shirley Congdon LEP Board Member (Deputy Chair)</b>	University of Bradford	Higher Education	30 June 2025	
	Mark Cowgill	Exa Networks	Digital	30 April 2023 (with a further 3 year option)	To endorse his membership of the Committee and to <b>extend the term of office to 30 April 2026 (in accordance with a further 3 year option)</b>
	Orlagh Hunt	Yorkshire Building Society	Financial services	30 April 2023 (with a further 3 year option)	To endorse her membership of the Committee and to <b>extend the term of office to 30 April 2026 (in accordance with a further 3 year option)</b>

**Private Sector representatives on CA Committees (as at June 2023):**

	Phill Lautman	Care2Care Yorkshire	Social Care	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Claire Paxman	Paxman Coolers Ltd	Manufacturing	30 June 2023 (with a further 3 year option)	To endorse her membership of the Committee and to <b>extend the term of office to 30 April 2026 (in accordance with a further 3 year option)</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Private Sector Representative</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Current term of Office</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>
<b>Climate, Energy &amp; Environment</b>	John Clark	Cummins Turbo	Engineering	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Richard Goodfellow	Addleshaw Goddard	Legal	30 April 2023 (with a further 3 year option)	To endorse his membership of the Committee and to <b>extend the term of office to 30 April 2026 (in accordance with a further 3 year option)</b>
	David Owumi	Unseen UK	Circular Economy	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Gideon Richards	Consulting with Purpose Ltd	Professional Services	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Leah Stuart	Civic Engineers	Engineering	30 April 2023 (with a further 3 year option)	To endorse her membership of the Committee and to <b>extend the term of</b>

**Private Sector representatives on CA Committees (as at June 2023):**

					<b>office to 30 April 2026 (in accordance with a further 3 year option)</b>
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**Private Sector representatives on CA Committees (as at June 2023):**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Private Sector Representative</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Current term of Office</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>
<b>Place, Regeneration &amp; Housing</b>	Ben Aspinall	Aspinall Verdi	Property	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Lisa Littlefair	Mott Macdonald	Civil engineering	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Stephen Moore	City Fibre	Digital	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
<b>Culture, Heritage &amp; Sport</b>	Syima Aslam	Bradford Literature Festival	Arts & Culture	22 October 2024 (with a further 3 year option)	
	<b>Nicky Chance-Thompson (Deputy Chair) LEP Board co-optee</b>	The Piece Hall	Heritage	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Nathan Clark	Brudenell Social Club	Music & Arts	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Caroline Cooper Charles	Screen Yorkshire	Creative Industries	22 October 2024 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Wieke Eringa	Yorkshire Dance	Dance/Creative	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Private Sector Representative</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Current term of Office</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>

**Private Sector representatives on CA Committees (as at June 2023):**

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<b>Culture, Heritage &amp; Sport Cont'd</b>	Bolu Fagborun	East Bierley Community Sports Association	Sports	22 October 2024 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Amy Foster	Creative Scene	Creative Industries	22 October 2024 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Halima Khan	Street Games	Sport	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Alan Lane	Slung Low	Culture/Arts	22 October 2024 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Deborah Munt	Culture, Wellbeing & Social Impact Developer	Culture	22 October 2024 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Sam Nicholls	Music Local	Music/Creative	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
	<b>Kamran Rashid LEP Board Member</b>	Impact Hub Ltd	Third Sector	22 October 2024 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Leigh-Anne Stradeski	Eureka!	Arts	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	
	Ben Walmsley	University of Leeds	Higher Education	30 June 2025 (with a further 3 year option)	

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**Report to:** Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

**Date:** 13 June 2023

**Subject:** **Economic Update**

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**Led By:** Mark Roberts, Interim Chair

**Lead Officer:** Alan Reiss, Chief Operating Officer

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## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. To provide an update on the latest economic and business intelligence for the Board.

## 2. Information

### Macroeconomy

- 2.1. **CPI inflation rose by 8.7% in the 12 months to April 2023**, down from 10.1% in the year to March. Whilst the annual rate has fallen, prices have still risen, albeit at a slower rate. This slow down in inflation is also due to a timing effect, and a large drop in inflation has been long-expected once the older, higher price rises fell out of the calculation. The fall that has materialised however is lower than anticipated. The easing in the CPI annual rate between March and April 2023 came as a result of prices rising by 1.2% on the month compared with a rise of 2.5% a year earlier.
- 2.2. In addition, core inflation has risen by 6.8% in the year to April, up from 6.2% in the year to March. Core inflation strips out the energy, food, alcohol and tobacco sectors, so this rise increases the possibility of future interest rate rises from the Bank of England.
- 2.3. The largest single price pressure on households remains food and non-alcoholic beverages, where prices have risen by 19.0% in the year to April, down from 19.1% in the year to March. Vegetables are the largest contributor to this price rise, largely due to international supply chain issues and a labour shortage in the sector in the UK reducing crop yields.
- 2.4. On 11 May, **the Bank of England's MPC voted by a majority of 7-2 to increase the Bank Rate by 0.25 percentage points to 4.5%**. This is the twelfth consecutive rise in interest rates in the Bank's attempt to tame price rises in the

economy, and bring inflation back to its 2% target. The Bank anticipates a further rise, with interest rates forecasted to peak at 4.75% in Q4 of 2023, and this expectation forms the basis of the forecasts published alongside the most recent rate decision.

- 2.5. Compared with the Office of Budget Responsibility's (OBR) forecast to accompany the Spring Budget, the latest Bank of England forecast has a more optimistic short-term outlook, but a more pessimistic medium-term rate of growth for the UK economy. These forecasts also represent a more positive outlook than the Bank of England's last forecasts in February. The key driver of this uptick in economic performance, albeit slightly, is a lower level of precautionary saving by households, which is linked to the high level of vacancies in the economy – people typically do not perceive that their jobs are at risk despite the poor economic performance over the last 18 months.
- 2.6. Other key headlines from the Monetary Policy Report include:
  - Business surveys suggest that the outlook for growth has improved, but remains low.
  - Consumer confidence has improved, but remains low.
  - Employment growth has remained positive, and surveys of employment intentions point to further growth throughout 2023.
  - Anticipated future interest rate rises are likely to dampen business investment – largely because firms expect a greater return on savings than investment.

### **Businesses**

- 2.7. April saw 1,897 business registrations in West Yorkshire, as well as 1,643 business liquidations, to give 254 net new businesses month-on-month. This is around 500 fewer net new businesses compared with the same month of 2022, largely due to a fall in business registrations in April 2023 against April 2022. This is likely to represent the more hostile business environment that firms are operating in currently. Whilst this has not yet resulted in abnormally high levels of liquidations, it is likely to have deterred new businesses from entering the marketplace.
- 2.8. Business registrations were particularly strong in April in Bradford and Kirklees. These two districts accounted for 25% and 20% of new businesses respectively, despite being home to 22% and 19% of all West Yorkshire businesses.
- 2.9. The sectoral make-up of the registrations and liquidations shows that the sectors most reliant on discretionary spending are seeing the most volatile changes in recent months. The wholesale and retail trade, and the accommodation and food services sectors saw high levels of both registrations and liquidations in April, relative to their market share.
- 2.10. The Research and Intelligence Team have recently appointed BMG Research to conduct the West Yorkshire Business Survey 2023. Fieldwork will begin in July and will run throughout the Summer, with results to be shared Autumn/Winter 2023.



## **Labour market**

- 2.11. The number of payrolled employees in West Yorkshire has fallen slightly between March and April (-0.3%), and now sits at 1,013,000. This level is still 3.5% above pre-pandemic levels. This suggests that the labour market is softening, but remains in a strong position.
- 2.12. Median pay in West Yorkshire is now at £2,091 per month. This represents a 7.2% increase over the past 12 months. However, with an inflation rate of 8.7% over the same period, the average West Yorkshire resident has become poorer in real terms over the last year.

## **Combined Authority actions**

- 2.13. The Combined Authority have operated the Energy Price Emergency Grant since December 2022, as part of the Mayor's package of support for local businesses throughout the energy crisis. As of 17 May 2023, this fund has granted over £467,000 of support to 138 businesses in the region. There is also an additional 45 grant applications pending approval, with a further £152,100 of spending to be carried out if these submissions are approved. £1 million has been set aside for this, so the Combined Authority are now targeting ads to increase update of the funding. Food and hospitality businesses have accounted for the greatest share of applications.
- 2.14. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the Government's Levelling Up agenda, and West Yorkshire has been allocated over £83 million of funding for local investment by March 2025. This has been split into three pillars: Community and Place; Supporting Local Businesses; and People and Skills. The Rural England Prosperity Fund has also allocated West Yorkshire an additional £2.5 million of funding, focusing on supporting small and micro businesses in rural communities.
- 2.15. In alignment with the West Yorkshire Plan, the Combined Authority are developing an Economic Strategy for West Yorkshire. This will focus on our approach to the delivery of a prosperous West Yorkshire, an inclusive economy with well-paid jobs. More information on this strategy can be found in Item 9.

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

- 3.1. One of the contributing factors to rising food prices is the unusually hot temperatures in Spain and Morocco, which has had an adverse effect on olive yields, increasing olive oil prices by 60% since June 2022. As a key ingredient in many food products, this has an impact on a wide range of food items. A House of Lords report suggests that sustained food price inflation is here to stay as a direct consequence of climate change and biodiversity loss.

## **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.1. With food prices driving the current inflationary pressures in the economy, not only are households at the lower end of the income distribution feeling the pressure more harshly, larger households are too. Households with a higher number of people require relatively greater amounts of food, meaning that a greater proportion of their income is spent on these items that are increasing in price at a faster rate.

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

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

## **6. Financial Implications**

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

## **7. Legal Implications**

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

## **8. Staffing Implications**

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

## **9. External Consultees**

- 9.1. No external consultations have been undertaken.

## **10. Recommendations**

- 10.1. That the LEP Board notes the latest economic evidence, and considers it as part of the decision making process.

## **11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

None.



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**Report to:** Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

**Date:** 13 June 2023

**Subject:** **Economic Strategy**

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**Led By:** Mark Roberts, Interim Chair

**Lead Officer:** Phil Witcherley, Interim Director Inclusive Economy, Skills & Culture

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## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. To update LEP Board members on the development of the Economic Strategy for West Yorkshire in alignment with the West Yorkshire Plan.

## 2. Information

### Background

- 2.1. Work has been ongoing to develop an Economic Strategy for West Yorkshire. Members of the LEP Board have previously been involved in discussions on scope and purpose as well as membership of a task and finish group to support the work. Development of the Economic Strategy has been taking place alongside development of the West Yorkshire Plan to ensure synergy and alignment between both documents. The economic strategy will become an overarching document that will cover our approach to skills and employment and business growth.
- 2.2. The West Yorkshire Plan sets out a high-level vision and narrative for the region, alongside five transformative missions. Following sign-off of the West Yorkshire Plan, it has been agreed that the Economic Strategy will focus on our approach to the delivery of **Mission One: A Prosperous West Yorkshire, an inclusive economy with well paid jobs**. The Economic Strategy will cover our approach to and align with our existing policies and strategies on areas of economic development relating to this mission.
- 2.3. The Economic Strategy will cover actions to make West Yorkshire a net zero region by 2038, and the implications and opportunities this has for economic activity. It will fill a policy gap setting out our approach to sectors and will consider our approach in the context of regional economic forecasting.

## **Work programme**

- 2.4 Building on the earlier discussions with LEP Board members, work has focused on refreshing the evidence base alongside a programme of stakeholder engagement. A comprehensive Economic Assessment for West Yorkshire is being updated where new data is available. A call for evidence is being planned via the Y-PERN network of academics to ensure we are utilising a wide range of material. New research is being undertaken to understand key sectors in West Yorkshire's knowledge economy at the forefront of technology and innovation.
- 2.5 Following re-procurement of the Regional Economic Model (REM) model for West Yorkshire, new forecasts will be developed to understand possible scenarios for economic growth. Existing policy and strategy documents are being reviewed in the context of this work including updating and refreshing strategies where needed. Appendix One of this report sets out emerging themes from the evidence base review and provides further details of our approach to the Economic Strategy.
- 2.5 Stakeholder engagement activity is underway focusing on emerging themes from the evidence base review and priorities for the mission-based approach of the West Yorkshire Plan. Engagement includes local authority representatives, committee members, business representative groups, universities and voluntary and community groups. LEP Board members will be invited to take part in further discussions.
- 2.6 Drafting of the strategy will begin later in the summer with a draft for discussion circulated to members later in the year. Alongside this work, an external commission is planned to develop an Inward Investment strategy which will complement the Economic Strategy while remaining a separate document.

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

- 3.1. Tackling the climate emergency runs through the approach of the Economic Strategy and is a key part of growing an inclusive economy. The implications for business of net zero is being considered during consultation events and evidence gathering.

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

- 4.1. Inclusive Growth is central to this work and at the heart of the mission to grow an inclusive economy. Engagement with stakeholders will include a focus to ensure that inclusive growth is embedded within the strategy.

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

- 5.1. Enabling Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is a driving theme of the work to grow an inclusive economy. Engagement has already been undertaken with colleagues at the combined authority and is being considered during consultation events to ensure that the work embeds these values. This aligns with ongoing activity to support EDI within the work of the organisation.

## **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. A programme of engagement is currently underway including external consultees.

## **10. Recommendations**

10.1. That the LEP Board notes the update on the work and the Economic Strategy Prospectus in Appendix 1 and provides comment on the approach.

## **11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

**Appendix 1 – ECONOMIC STRATEGY PROSPECTUS.**

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# **West Yorkshire Economic Strategy**

# <sup>45</sup>**Prospectus**

**DRAFT POLICY IN DEVELOPMENT**

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## 2. The West Yorkshire Plan and Missions

Background to the West Yorkshire Plan and five missions for 2040

## 3. Developing the Economic Strategy

Our approach and stage of work

## 4. Foundations for Growth

Our strengths

## 5. Emerging Evidence

Early themes from the evidence review

DRAFT



# 1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

# About the Prospectus

By developing our economic strategy, we have an opportunity to change our economic future, setting out our approach and providing clarity across the region of our shared purpose with the private sector. Covid-19 has shown us the importance of resilience. There is a clear emerging opportunity for West Yorkshire to grasp the potential of innovation-driven growth and build upon existing assets and infrastructure to enable new enterprise, research, skills and employment for an inclusive economy that works for all.

**This prospectus provides background to the development of an Economic Strategy for West Yorkshire.**

The core principles of the Economic Strategy will be:

- Based on robust evidence, demonstrating a clear understanding of the key strengths, assets and challenges in West Yorkshire
- To reflect our expanded policy remit following devolution
- To ensure all relevant Combined Authority strategies are aligned with a clear focus on the missions of the West Yorkshire Plan
- To place West Yorkshire on the front-foot with an ambitious policy platform that improves competitiveness and ensures benefits are shared fairly.

# Our Policy Programme

West Yorkshire has undergone a period of evolution. With the agreement of a historic devolution deal and more powers and funding, we now have an opportunity to develop new ways of working. Major political events such as Brexit, disruptions from the Covid-19 pandemic, and the cost-of-living and doing business crisis have impacted all our communities and our policy programme has adapted.

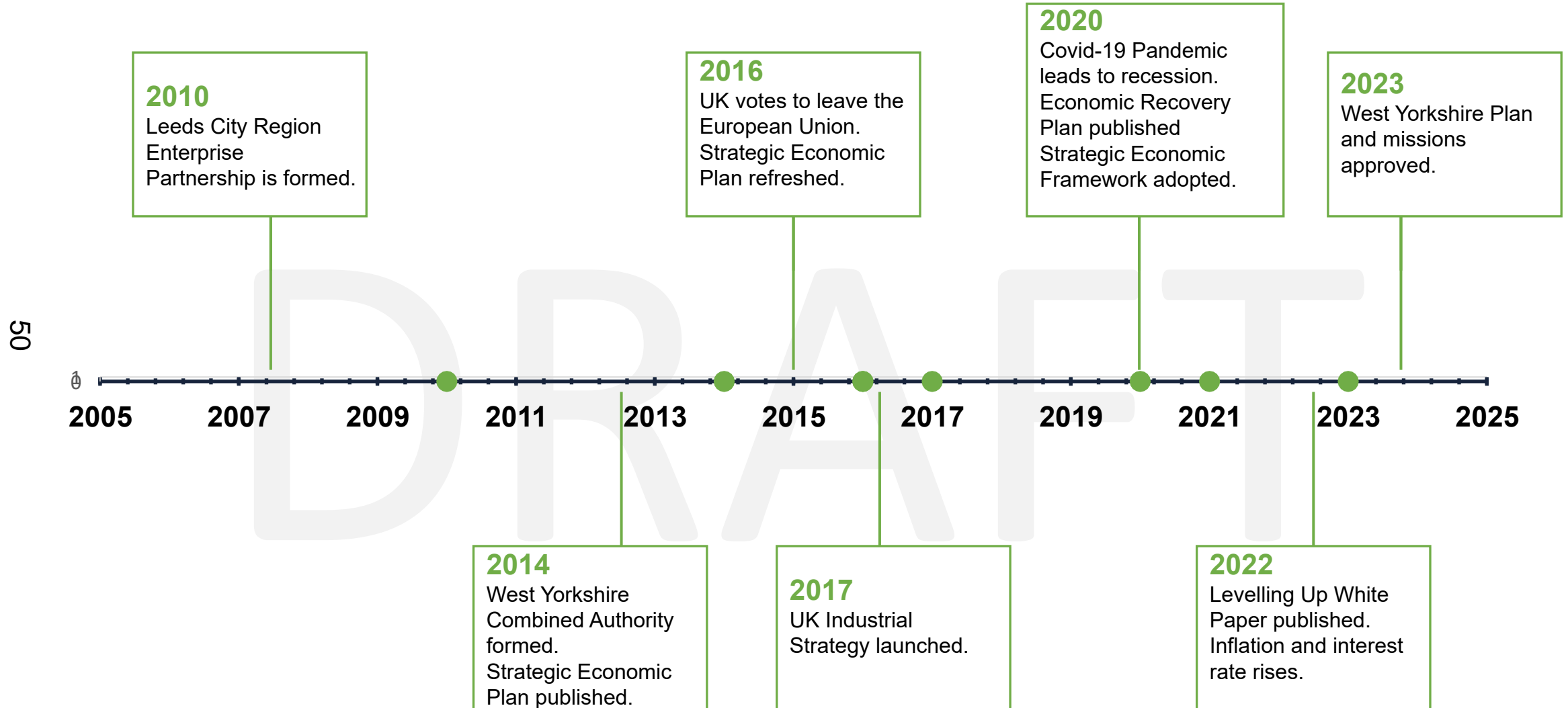
The Combined Authority has embraced commitments on sustainability to become a net zero region by 2038, boosting inclusive growth and embedding equality, diversity and inclusion in everything that we do.

These commitments have taken place alongside long-term structural challenges on productivity, investment, living standards and deprivation that will require change.

**The publication of the West Yorkshire Plan and the five supporting missions crystallises our approach and provides the framework for a new Economic Strategy to be developed.**

**OUR APPROACH:** Open and collaborative policy making with equality, diversity and inclusion at its heart. Foster, in partnership, an inclusive, place-based strategy where all communities contribute to, and benefit from sustainable growth.

# West Yorkshire Combined Authority Policy Timeline 2010-present



## **2. THE WEST YORKSHIRE PLAN AND SUPPORTING STRATEGIES**

# The West Yorkshire Plan

**The West Yorkshire Plan is the overarching strategy for West Yorkshire, setting the trajectory for the longer-term up to 2040.**

**Vision: A brighter West Yorkshire – a place that works for all. An engine room of ideas and creativity, where anyone can make a home.**

The Economic Strategy will be critical to achieving this vision, helping to build an inclusive economy for all to prosper. The West Yorkshire Plan sets out five ambitious missions for the region each with a set of targets that will drive our work to transform lives and communities across the region.

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The missions have been informed by our values and ambitions, whilst being underpinned by robust evidence. They will focus all our work for the long-term and set the framework for our strategies and investments for the future. The Economic Strategy will set out how we will deliver the economic aspects of the vision and missions.

The missions represent a long-term focus on positive outcomes. There is no simple solution or stand-alone initiative that will deliver the change we need. Each mission requires focused action in partnership between the public, private, voluntary and community sectors. The projects and programmes that we develop, deliver, support, and champion will all be geared towards the missions. Our progress will be demonstrated by a set of targets underpinned by detailed indicators measured annually in our State of the Region report.

# The Missions

Our vision and missions put equity, diversity, and inclusion at the heart of everything we do. We will lead the way to embed these values across all our work.

**Mission One:** A **prosperous** West Yorkshire – an inclusive economy with well paid jobs.

**Mission Two:** A **happy** West Yorkshire – great places and healthy communities.

**Mission Three:** A **well-connected** West Yorkshire - a strong transport system.

**Mission Four:** A **sustainable** West Yorkshire – making lives greener.

**Mission Five:** A **safe** West Yorkshire – a region where everyone can flourish.

**The Economic Strategy will have links across all five of the missions and a role to play in contributing to the ambitious targets of each one, but with a particular focus on mission one.**

# Supporting Policies and Strategies



## Mission One

Business Productivity and Resilience Plan

Employment and Skills Framework

Adult Education Budget Strategy

Innovation Framework

Digital Blue-Print

Inclusive Growth Framework

Culture Framework



## Mission Two

Place Narrative

Housing Strategy

Inclusive Growth Framework

Digital Blueprint

Culture Framework



## Mission Three

Local Transport Plan

Mass Transit Vision



## Mission Four

Climate and Environment Plan

Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy

Nature Recovery Strategy



## Mission Five

Police and Crime Plan

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# Mission One: A **prosperous** West Yorkshire – an inclusive economy with well paid jobs

The Economic Strategy will have a particular focus on Mission One of the West Yorkshire Plan.

By 2040 we will have:

- Closed the productivity gap between West Yorkshire and the UK.
- Living standards above the national average, with no child growing up in poverty.
- Good quality work available for all.
- A diverse and inclusive workforce, where everyone who wants to work can.

## Actions for change

Raising the prosperity and real term living standards of all parts of West Yorkshire can only be achieved sustainably by increasing productivity. To do this we will create the conditions to boost the economy so we can see highly skilled, healthy people working in well-paid jobs growing the presence of high productivity businesses and sectors. We will support an environment where entrepreneurial activity is nurtured and can flourish, where it is easy for businesses to start-up, grow, innovate, trade, and invest.

We will support businesses to be resilient, meeting the challenges of the future and embracing the opportunities of digital transformation. We will attract investment and jobs from overseas into our communities and support our businesses to export so that what's made in West Yorkshire is sold to the world.

We will ensure our employers recognise the value of a diverse workforce and invest in talent to develop the skills and progression we need. Where lifelong learning is part of our culture and flexible opportunities meet the needs of business.

We will build integrated infrastructure, attracting investment to create jobs in well-connected places. We will lead on innovation, continuing to build an open, inclusive, and thriving innovation ecosystem, connecting people to stimulate ideas for new products and services, driving investment to meet the challenges of the future.

We will address inequalities experienced by people, communities, and businesses, putting this at the forefront of decisions, whilst celebrating the breadth of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the region.

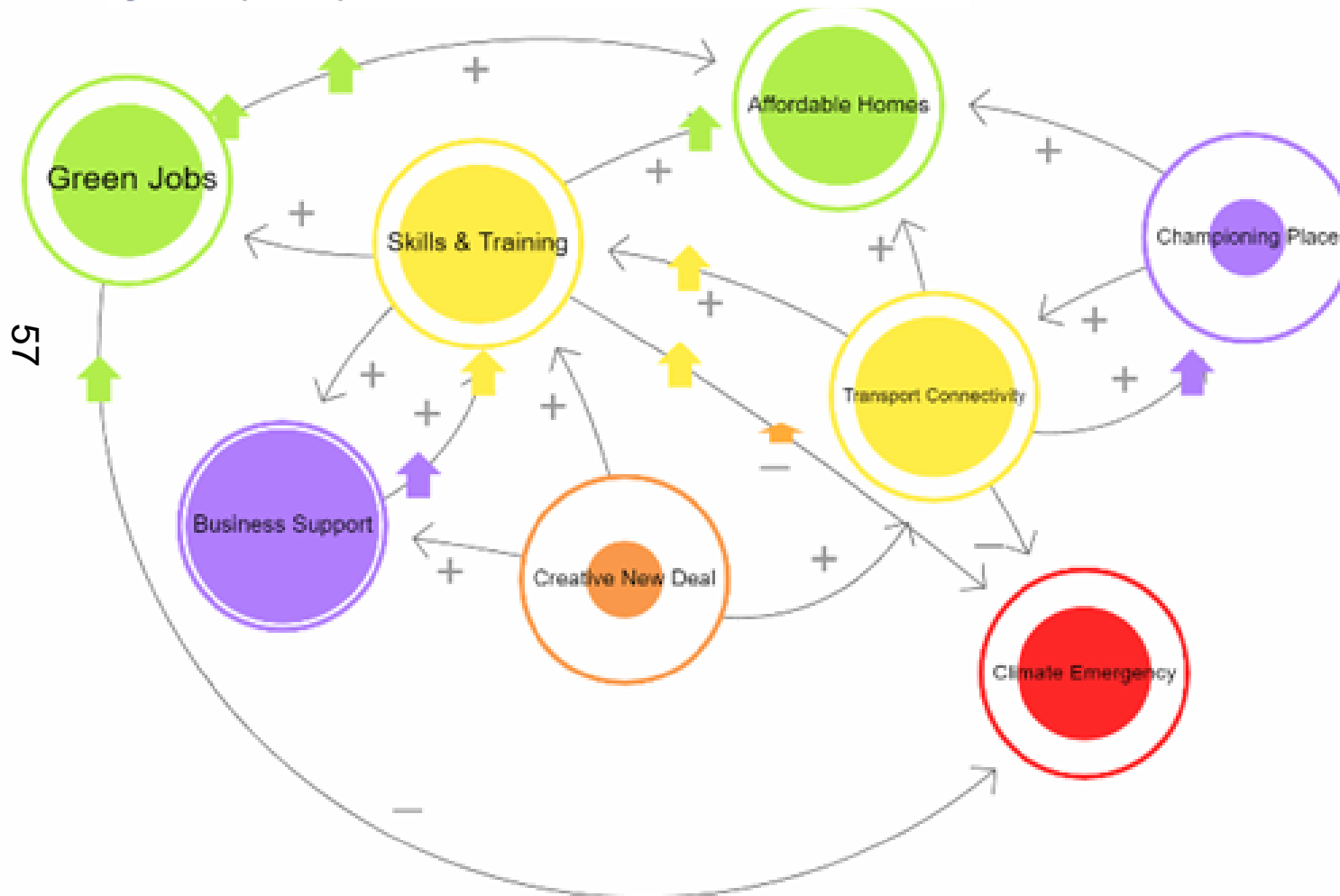
Progress will be demonstrated by improvements in:

- Productivity levels
- No. of jobs paying the living wage
- Living standards
- Child poverty
- Skill levels, apprenticeship starts, and people without employability skills
- The employment rate and percentage of employees in quality work
- The employment rate gap for disadvantaged groups
- Growth in key sectors.

# Systems Change Approach

Our approach must be broad, long-term and affect whole systems change to meet the bold ambitions we have for West Yorkshire.

Figure 7: A dynamic systems-based model



*“The above simulation demonstrates a long-term connectivity between the policy areas and the relationship between the fair and just recovery policy and the lasting recovery interventions.”*

Source: PERN, University of Leeds Business School, 2022

# **3. DEVELOPING THE ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

# Developing the Economic Strategy

The Economic Strategy will bring together detailed evidence and data about our region's strengths and weaknesses, examining how our businesses innovate, the make-up of skills across our workforce with an emphasis on creating an inclusive economy with well paid jobs. **It will be an action focused strategy to guide the use of local funding streams and any spending from national schemes and should help make choices among different options for investment and support.**

Development of the Economic Strategy will incorporate the following stages (timeframes are indicative):

- **Building the evidence base:** work is being undertaken to refresh and update the economic evidence base
- **Stakeholder engagement:** delivery of the West Yorkshire Plan missions and implications of the emerging evidence discussed with stakeholders
- **Reviewing priorities:** bringing together strands of activity to develop priorities and themes
- **Drafting:** development of a focused document
- **Further Consultation:** draft document shared with stakeholders.

# Building the Evidence Base

## How we are building our evidence base:

- **Call for Evidence:** working with West Yorkshire's Universities to access key research undertaken regionally on major themes of the Economic Strategy.
- **Economic Assessment:** updating and refreshing core economic indicators for West Yorkshire.
- **Sector Analysis:** enhancing our understanding of new areas of the economy at the frontier of growth alongside the foundational economy opportunities
- **Regional Economic Model:** Economic forecasts to understand future implications for the economy.
- **Inward Investment:** Commissioning specialist expertise to develop an inward investment strategy.

Emerging themes from the evidence are set out in this prospectus to inform stakeholder discussion.


# Expert Support

Developing the Economic Strategy will tap into the existing evidence base of academic experts across West Yorkshire.

- The Yorkshire Place-based Economic Recovery Network (Y-PERN) is led and driven by academics, primarily located in West Yorkshire universities, but with connections o elsewhere in the region. The group brings academics together with specific expertise and interest in local and regional development and governance.
- Work is ongoing to bring together experts in the field of health and economics with policy makers in West Yorkshire to provide independent and scientific support and challenge on policy development. There will be a particular focus on health inequalities and growing a sustainable, inclusive economy.

# Stakeholder Engagement

A range of stakeholder engagement events are taking place to discuss the evidence base and shape mission-based projects to meet aims of the West Yorkshire Plan, sessions to include a mix of stakeholders and thematic areas:

Stakeholder Group	Scope
Businesses and business groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Share emerging evidence and discuss priorities</li></ul>
Local Authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Share emerging evidence and discuss priorities</li><li>• Discuss with range of specialist policy area groups relevant to the mission of the West Yorkshire Plan</li></ul>
Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To include engagement with the Y-PERN network including on call for evidence</li><li>• Discuss implications of the West Yorkshire Plan missions</li></ul>
Voluntary and Community Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engage with the sector to align priorities and ensure proposals for an inclusive economy are met.</li></ul>
Combined Authority Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engage and keep committees up-to-date</li></ul>
Community Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A range of options are being considered for community engagement to shape the Economic Strategy including engaging diverse voices and groups including young people.</li></ul>



# 4. FOUNDATIONS FOR GROWTH

*“West Yorkshire has always been a place bursting with ideas, energy, and creativity. We are a family with a long history of collaboration borne out of our shared priorities and strong partnerships.”*

## West Yorkshire Plan

West Yorkshire is a dynamic economy at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse. The globally competitive city of Leeds sits alongside the vibrant cities of Bradford and Wakefield, together with lively towns, stunning countryside, and outstanding rural communities. West Yorkshire boasts an array of attractions and world class cultural assets:

- Economic output (GVA, or gross value added) of £57.4bn
- A highly diverse population
- <sup>64</sup> Around 95,000 businesses and a workforce of 1.2 million
- World-class universities delivering leading research
- Leading innovation clusters on health and digital
- Home to a large and growing population of 2.4 million people
- At the centre of the UK, within one hour’s drive of 7 million people.
- 4,600 hectares of national parks.



# Our Strengths

*“West Yorkshire has a long history of innovation and industry, delivering economic success alongside social progress. Industrialists such as Sir Titus Salt had a vision for the model village of Saltaire, supporting people out of poverty and into skilled work. Betty Beecroft's courage and ambition developed Kirkstall Forge, one of the oldest most continuously used industrial sites in England. Benjamin Gott revolutionised the production of woollen cloth and with his success invested in the cultural and civic life of Leeds.”*

*West Yorkshire Plan*

- The structure of our economy and broad business base means we have a resilient economy not dominated by a single sector.
- <sup>65</sup> Our seven world class universities attract and retain talent from around the region and around the world, creating a magnet for international businesses who flock to our region to pioneer innovations in transportation, digital, health, and manufacturing.
- West Yorkshire is home to world class universities delivering leading research with innovation clusters including Healthtech and Advanced Manufacturing. West Yorkshire universities are in the top five of the research rankings for six key technology areas: big data, robotics, advanced materials, agri-science, regenerative medicine and satellites.

*“Here in West Yorkshire, we are different. We are single-minded pioneers, determined and hard-working, ambitious, and creative, and not afraid to take on challenges. These traits put us at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution and made us a manufacturing powerhouse of the world.”*

**West Yorkshire Plan**

# Our Places

- 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.

# A Track Record of Delivery

In West Yorkshire we have successfully grown as an organisation and partnership. Our evolution has taken us from a Combined Authority established in 2014, working in partnership with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) **to deliver £235.45 million of economic development and £280 million of transport schemes through the Leeds City Region Growth Deal (2015-2021)**. Examples of our success include:

- Establishing a Task Force to understand challenges in the manufacturing sector to generate more jobs in this sector
- Working with local authorities to open access to employment land
- Collaborating with universities to drive R&D levels in the region
- Attracting new jobs and funding through international partnerships
- Creating new green jobs to support our plans to tackle the climate emergency
- Developing a Fair Work Charter to ensure that the jobs in the region are good and fair jobs.
- Ensuring there is training and skills for everyone, including digital skills to prevent digital exclusion.
- Delivering an entrepreneurship programme, to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation that matches our diverse population
- Support to those sectors that have suffered most during the pandemic and support for businesses during the cost-of-living crisis
- Strategies to place the region at the cutting edge of innovation in health-tech and space.

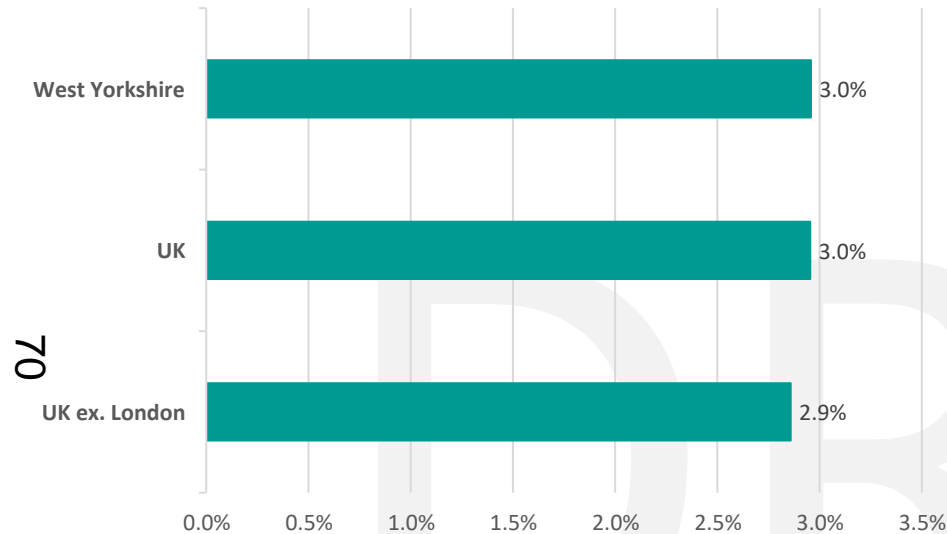
# Current Priorities

- A simplified and streamlined offer for businesses via Business West Yorkshire
- A West Yorkshire Investment Zone
- Creative Catalyst promoting and boosting businesses in the sector
- West Yorkshire Green Jobs Taskforce and creating 1,000 green jobs for young people
- Understanding health inequalities and the relationship to economic growth
- ☞ Supporting adults from diverse backgrounds into employment, enterprise and training
- Establishing a Fair work Charter for West Yorkshire
- Delivering an entrepreneurship programme
- Innovation support
- Digital skills partnership
- Employment Hub.

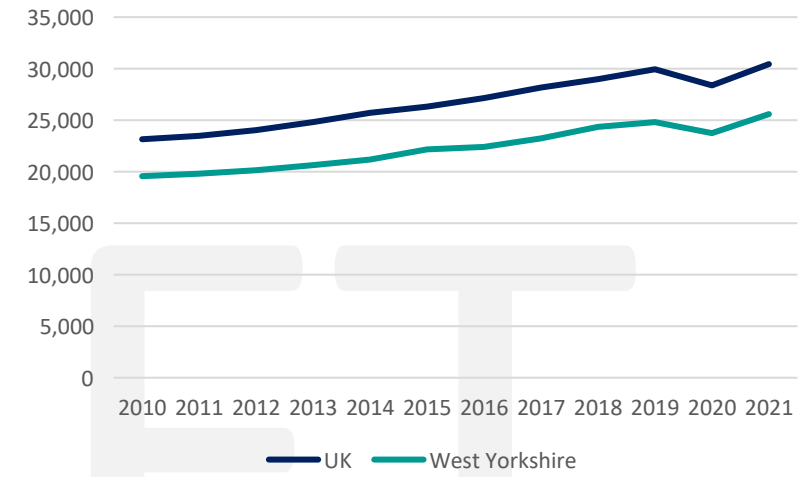
# 5. Emerging Evidence

# West Yorkshire Economy

The region's economic output is worth **£60.1bn**, making it the **third largest regional economy in the UK outside London**. West Yorkshire is also the third largest city region area in terms of employment and has the largest finance and insurance sector of any of the 10 combined authority areas in England.



GVA (balanced) at current basic prices - annual growth rate (%), 2015-21  
Source: ONS, Sub-regional GVA data



Economic output (GVA) per head GVA per head (balanced) at current basic prices Source: ONS, Sub-regional GVA data

Between 2015 and 2020 West Yorkshire's economy grew at a rate comparable to the UK average, and above the UK when excluding London. Average growth rates across the UK were bolstered by a strong rate of growth post-pandemic compared with prior years.

Output per head of population fell both locally and nationally in 2020 as a result of the pandemic, before rebounding in 2021. The latest West Yorkshire figure is 18% lower than the national average, a gap that has remained fairly constant since 2013.

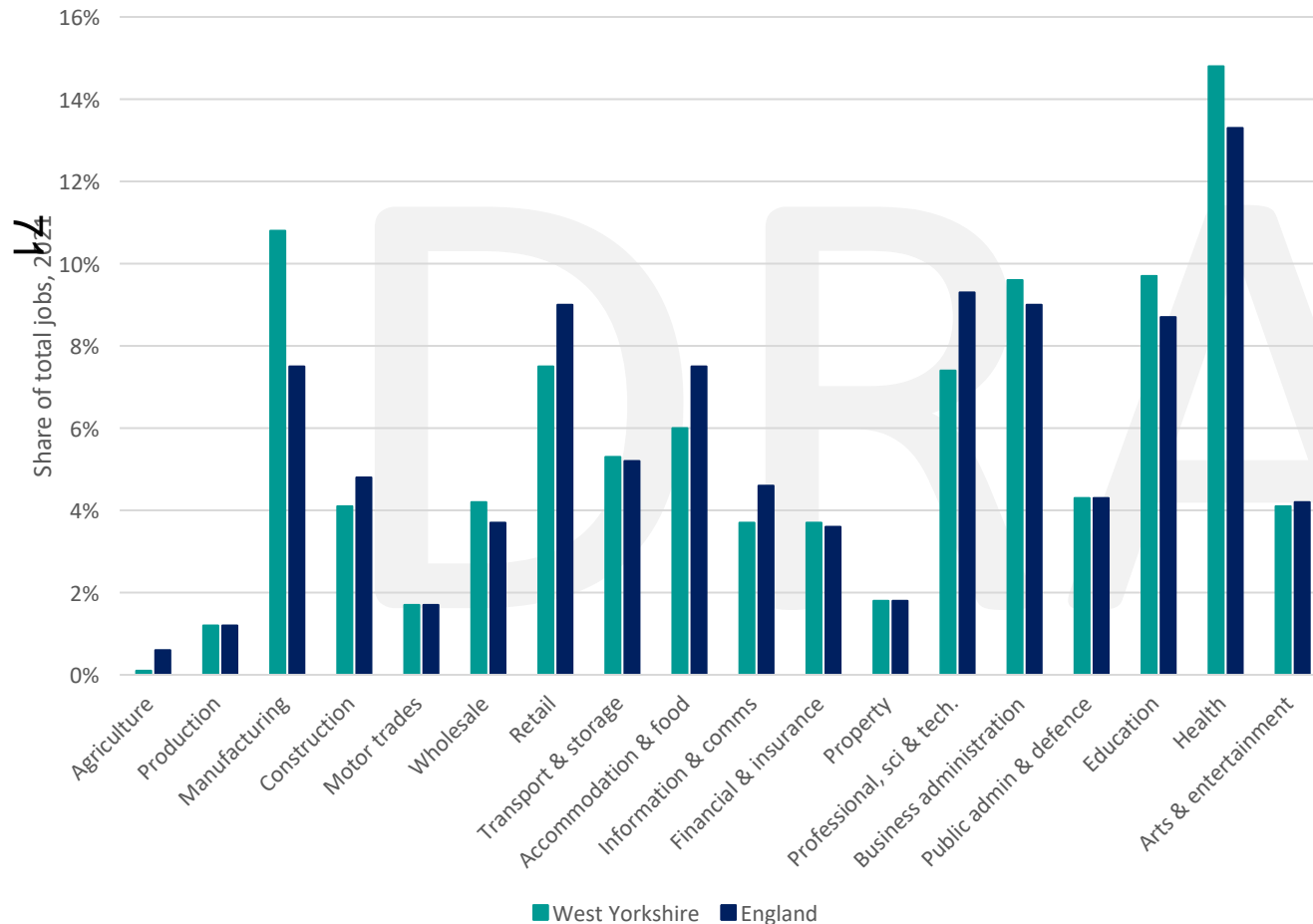


# Sectors

Our evidence gathering will include analysis of sectors in the ‘New Economy’ of West Yorkshire.

“The ‘new economy’ encompasses emerging knowledge-intensive sectors like FinTech and advanced manufacturing that are at the forefront of new technologies and innovations. It is important for improving the UK’s productivity and prosperity and a central pillar for the future success of the whole economy.” Centre for Cities – At the Frontier, the Geography of the UK’s new economy.

## Share of jobs by broad sector, 2021

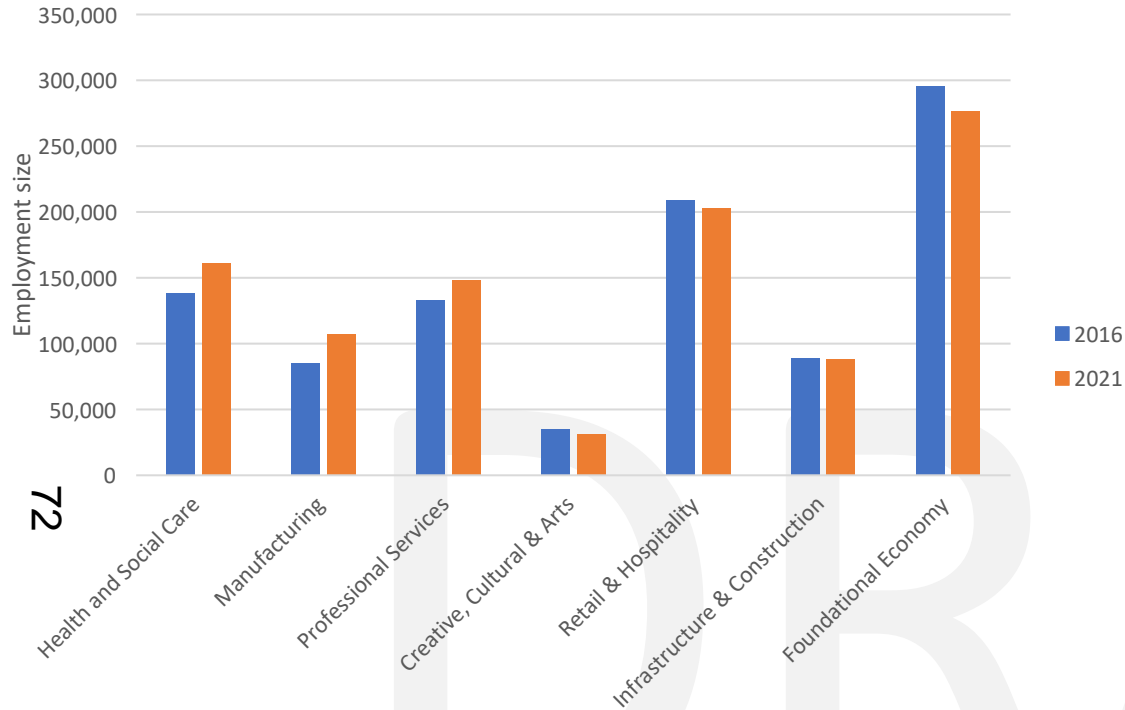


Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, ONS, 2022

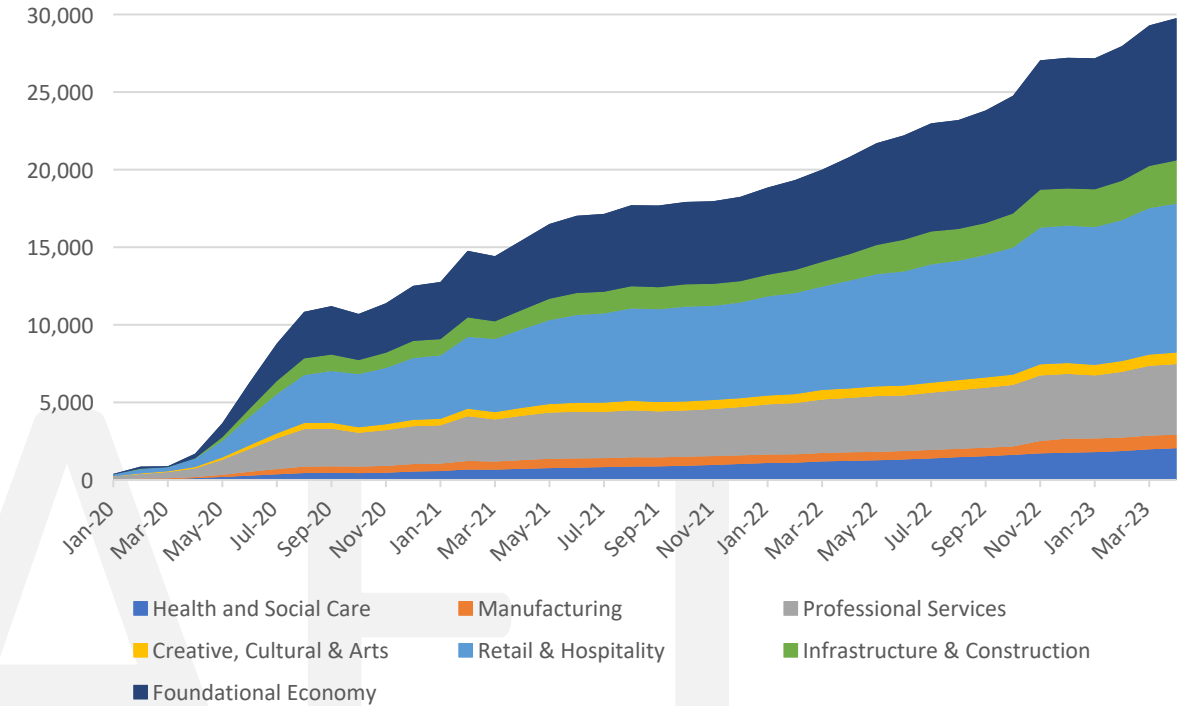
The health sector employs more people than any other sector in West Yorkshire. Health directly accounts for 14.8% of jobs, compared to 13.3% across England as a whole. West Yorkshire also has more manufacturing jobs than anywhere else in the North, and is the country’s leading regional financial centre outside London.

Manufacturing accounts for more output (GVA) in West Yorkshire than any other sector – 13.4% compared to 9.4% nationally. Other sectors where the local share of GVA exceeds the national share include financial services, health, education and wholesale and retail.

# Employment Clusters

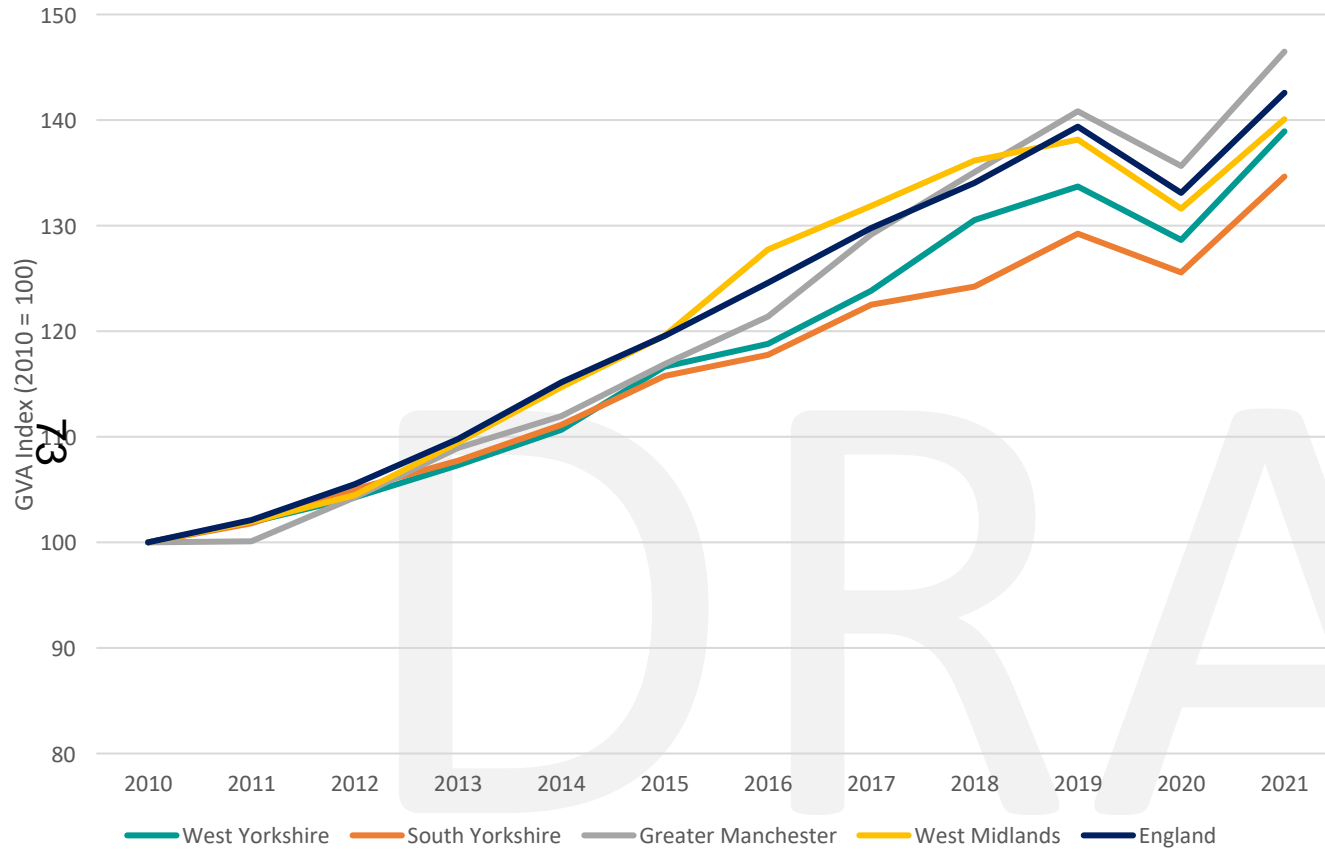


Three clusters have seen increased employment between 2016 and 2021. Health and Social Care increased by 23,000, the Manufacturing cluster increased by 22,450 and Professional Services by additional 14,850. Clusters with the biggest decrease were the Foundational Economy (down 18,595 jobs) and Retail & Hospitality (down 6,000 jobs).



The key clusters have almost 30,000 net new businesses since January 2020. All of the clusters have grown in terms of the number of businesses, but the Retail and Hospitality cluster (+9,595 net new businesses) and the Foundational Economy cluster (+9,169 net new businesses) have seen the largest gains in their business bases.

# Comparator areas



GVA growth between 2015 and 2021 in West Yorkshire matched the national average, at 3.0% per annum. This places West Yorkshire ahead of the growth rate of West Midlands and South Yorkshire Combined Authorities, but well below the growth rate in Greater Manchester of 3.8%.

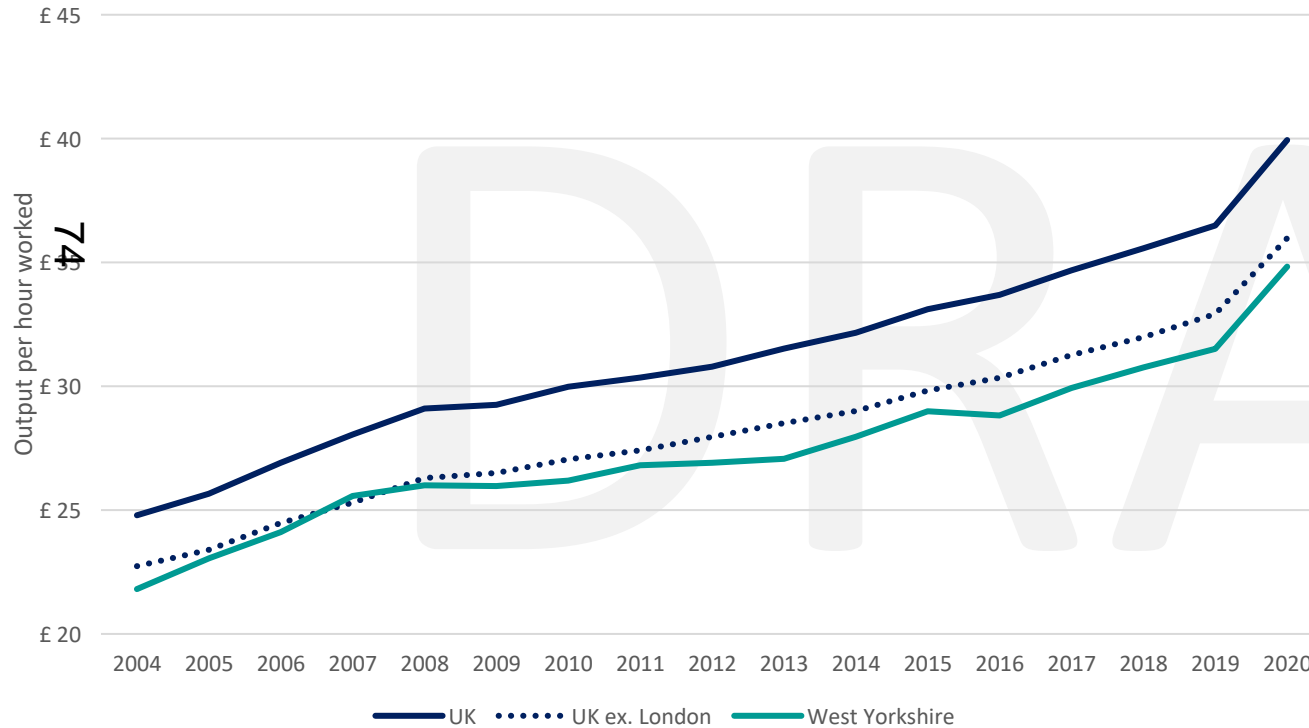
**Index of GVA growth (current prices) – West Yorkshire and key comparator areas**

# Productivity

*Increased productivity is the main engine of local economic growth and improved living standards.*  
**State of the Region**

## West Yorkshire has seen a widening of the productivity gap with the rest of the UK.

The relative position of West Yorkshire on productivity has not improved in recent years. UK productivity growth has remained below trend since the 2008 financial crisis and local productivity has remained markedly below national average levels, even excluding London.



Productivity increased sharply for nationally and for West Yorkshire and during 2020, as low productivity sectors were hardest hit by Covid-19 restrictions, however the gap with the rest of the UK remained.

### Productivity

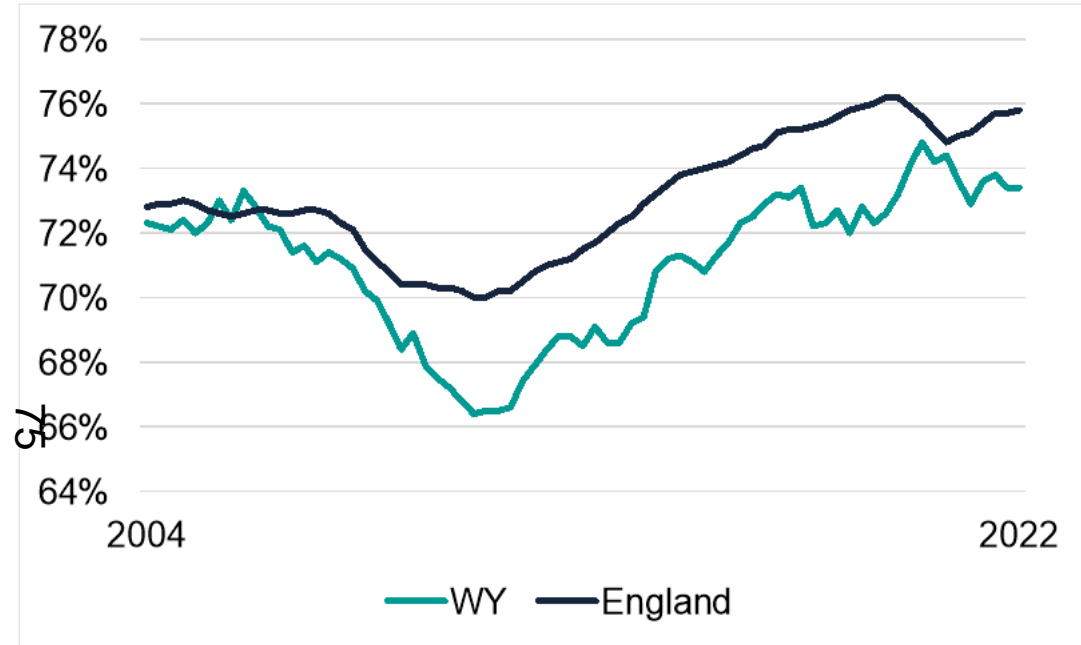
*Current price unsmoothed GVA (balanced) per hour worked*

*Source: ONS Sub-regional productivity data*

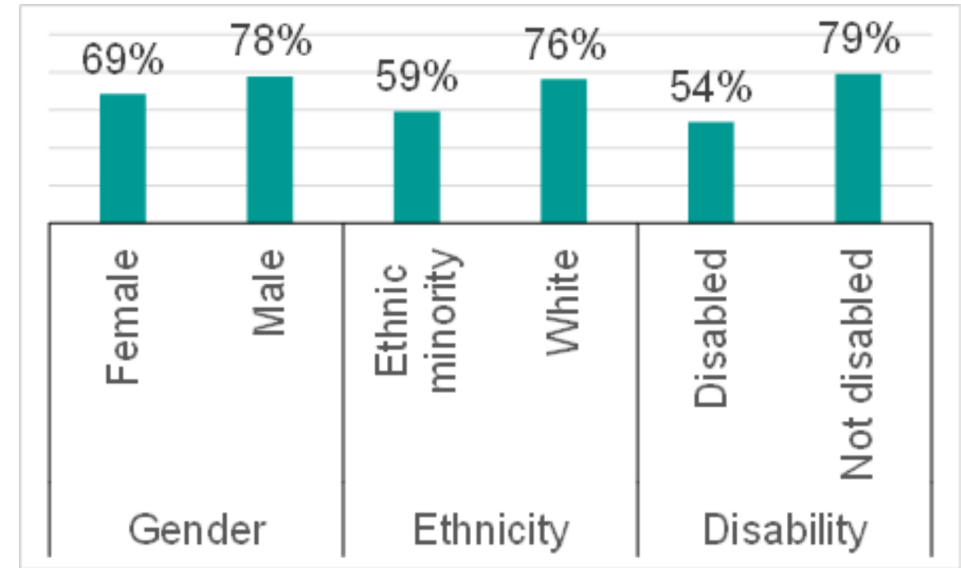
*Closing the productivity gap to that of the UK average would make the West Yorkshire Economy around £8.5 billion larger.*

**Business Productivity and Resilience Plan.**

# Employment



**Employment rate** *Employment rate for all aged 16-64* Source: ONS APS



While the economy and employment in West Yorkshire has grown, productivity has not improved.

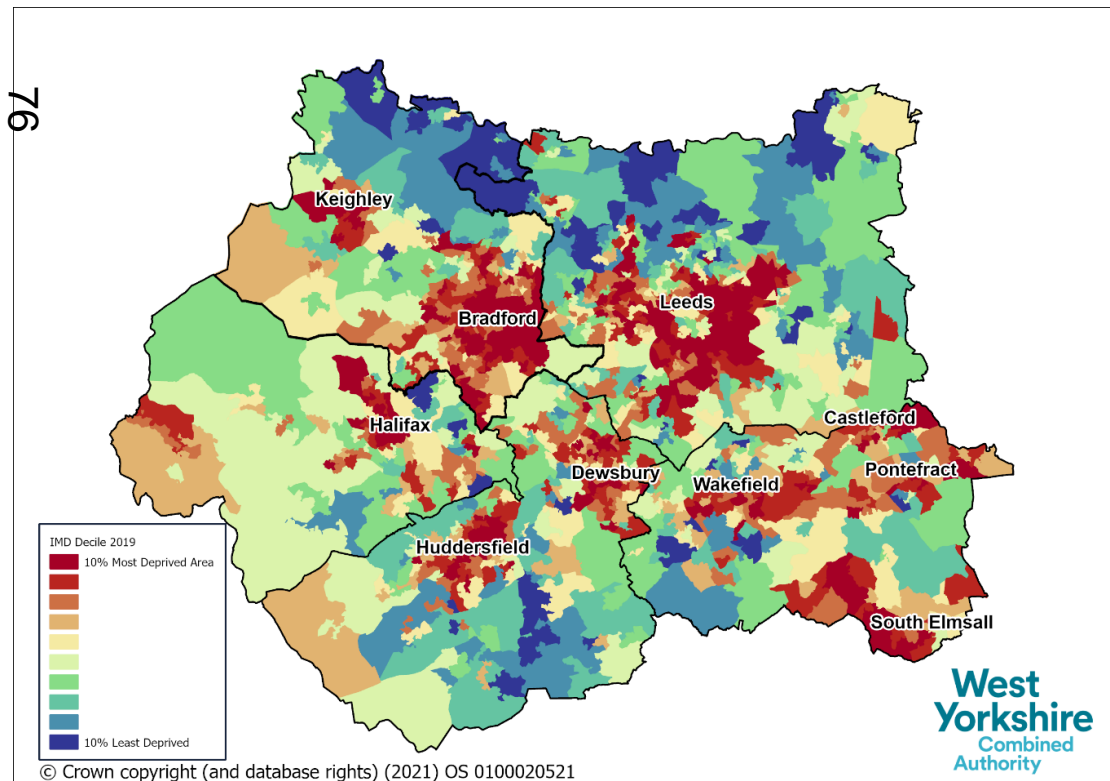
West Yorkshire's overall level of employment and employment rate have grown steadily in recent years. Groups who are disadvantaged in the labour market, including women, people from ethnic minorities, disabled people and older people are less likely to be in employment than the wider population

# Deprivation

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.

State of the Region

## West Yorkshire Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019



### Economic Inactivity

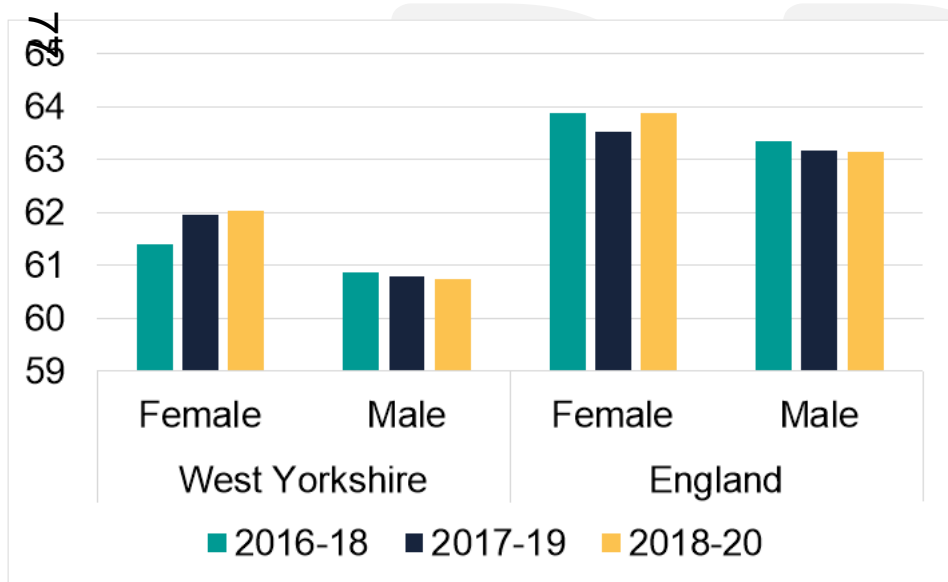
- Currently 344,000 people of working age (16-64) in West Yorkshire who are economically inactive. This is 24% of the working age population compared with 21% nationally
- 128,000 inactive people in West Yorkshire are aged 50-64. The inactivity rate for this group is 29% compared with 24% nationally.

# Healthy Life Expectancy

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.

Our strengthened relationship with the Integrated Care Board will support a deepening of understanding of the relationship between health and productivity, we aim to bring together academic experts from health and the economy to understand the relationship between these areas.

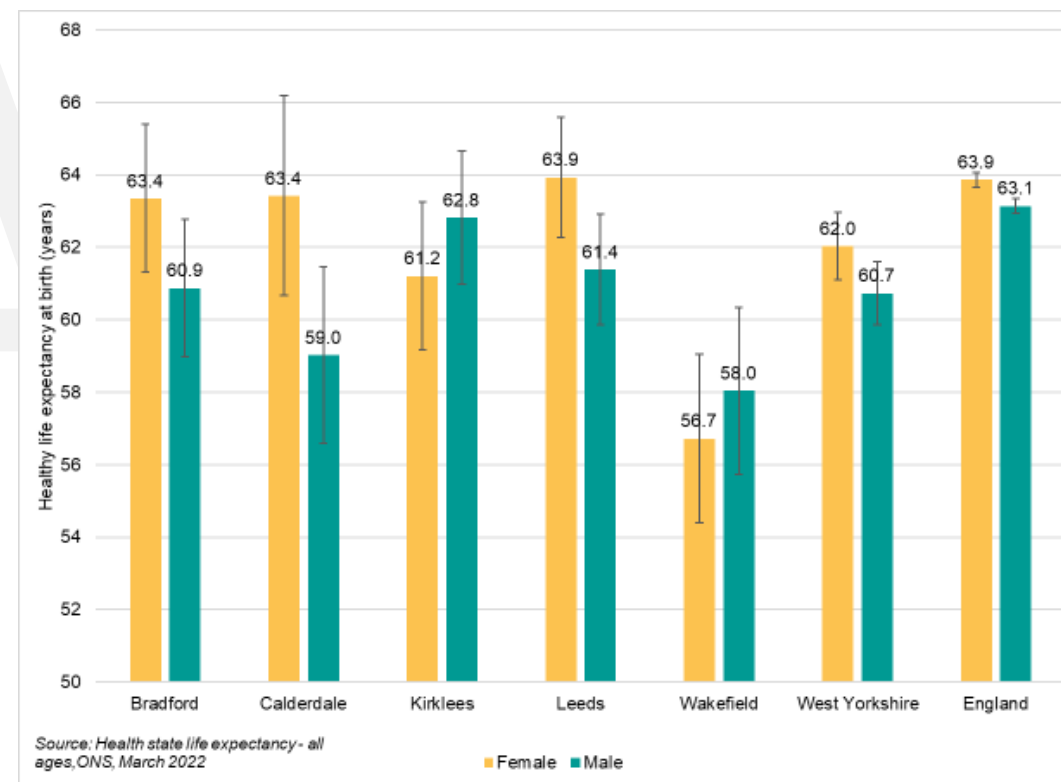
## Healthy Life expectancy



Healthy life expectancy (HLE) at birth - estimates in years

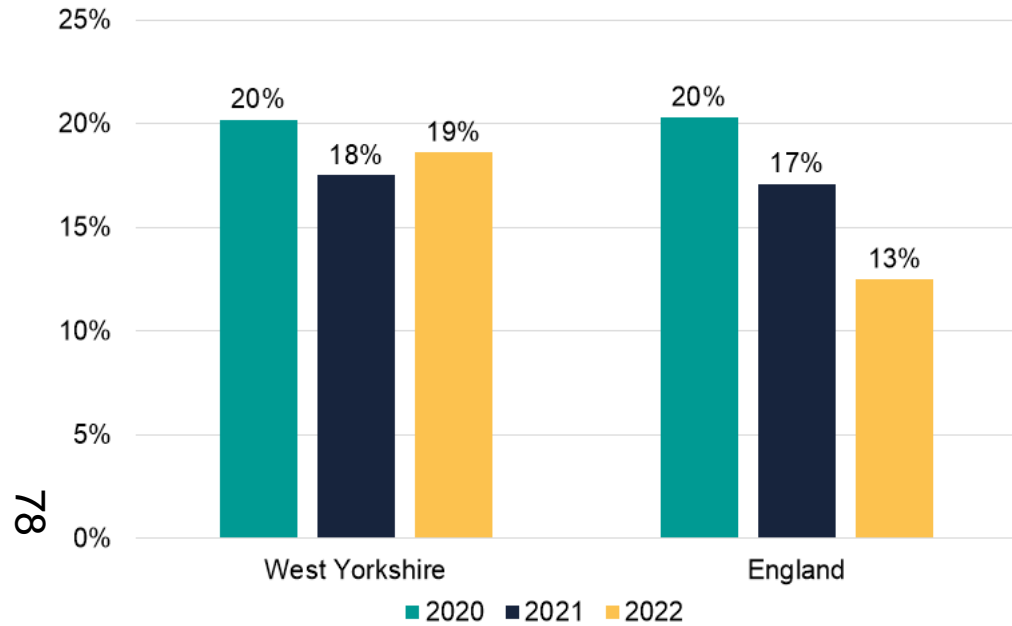
Source: Health state life expectancy, ONS

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



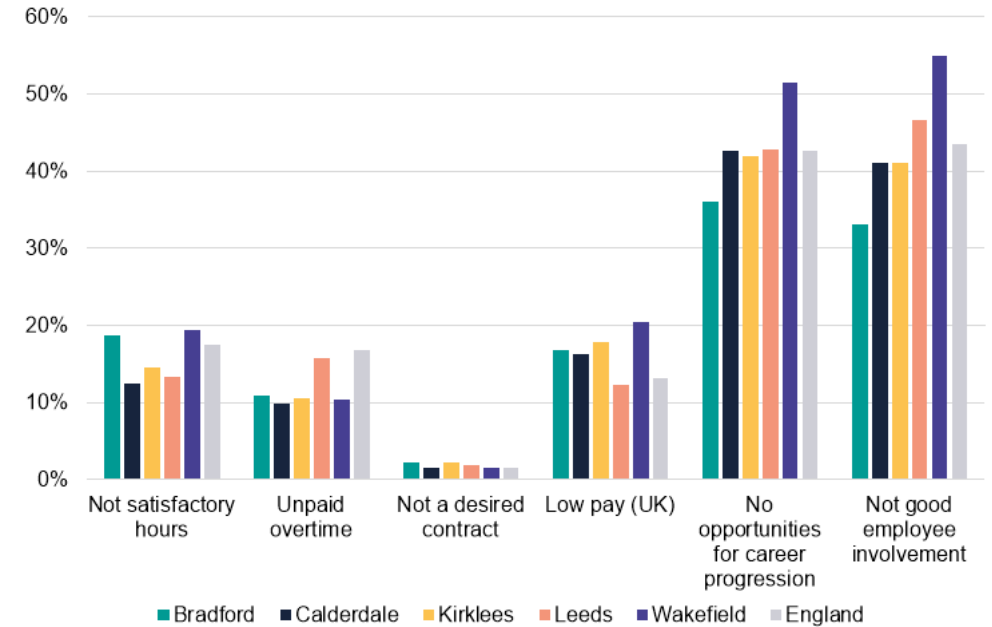
Source: Health state life expectancy - all ages, ONS, March 2022

# Wages and Quality of Work



## Jobs paying below Real Living Wage

Around 200,000 jobs in West Yorkshire, or 19% of the total, pay below the Real Living Wage. The percentage increases to 38% for part-time workers. The proportion of jobs paying below the Real Living Wage is expected to grow in 2023 reflecting the cost of living crisis.

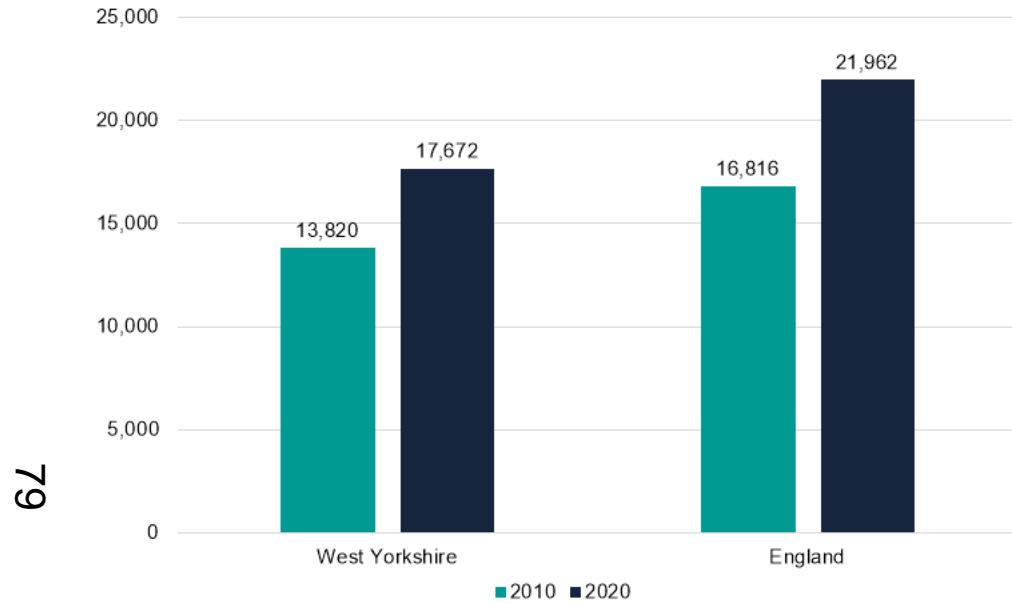


## Quality work

*Proportion of employees whose jobs have stated characteristic*  
Although most jobs offer satisfactory hours, desired contract status and at least two-thirds of median UK pay, high proportions do not offer sufficient opportunities for career progression or employee involvement.



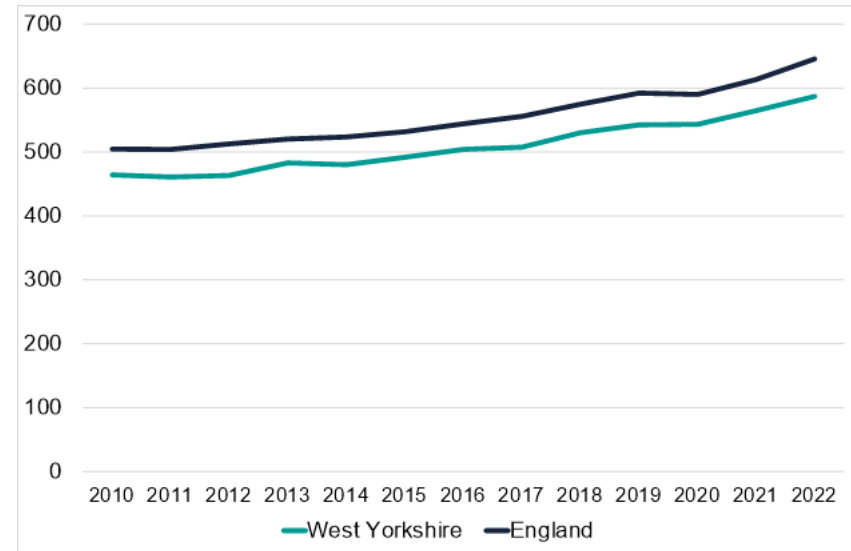
# Living standards



## Gross disposable household income

*Gross disposable household income per head (£)*

West Yorkshire's gap with the national average on household income is widening. In 2010 West Yorkshire's GDHI per head figure was 82% of the England average but fell to 80% in 2020.

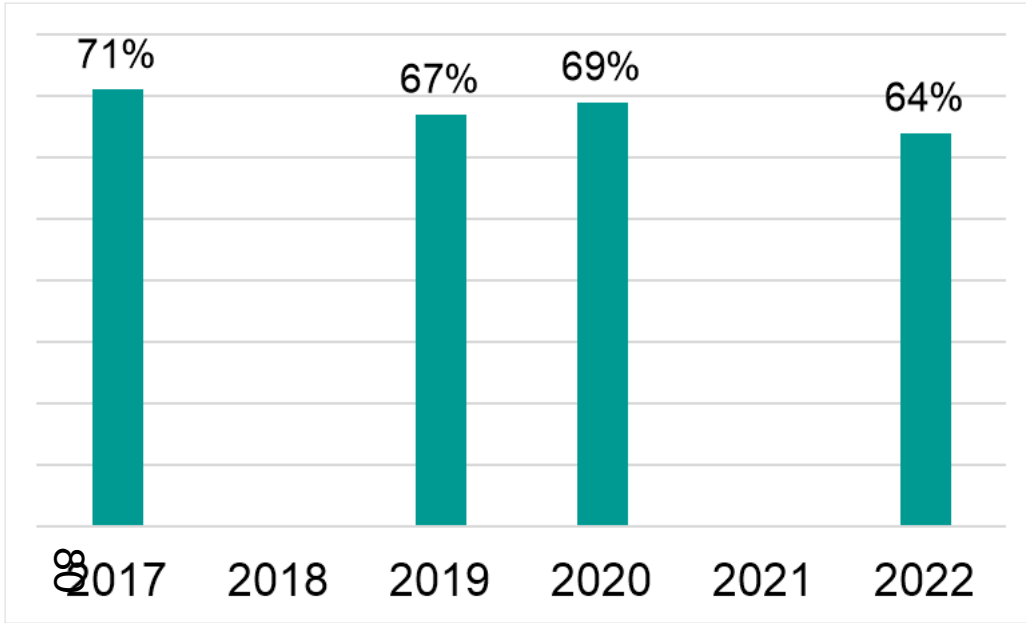


## Median pay

*Trend in median weekly gross pay for full-time workers (£)*

West Yorkshire's median level of pay has increased steadily over time, growing by an average of 2% per annum since 2010 in nominal terms. However, its position relative to the national average has remained broadly constant throughout this period with no narrowing of the pay gap.

# Innovation



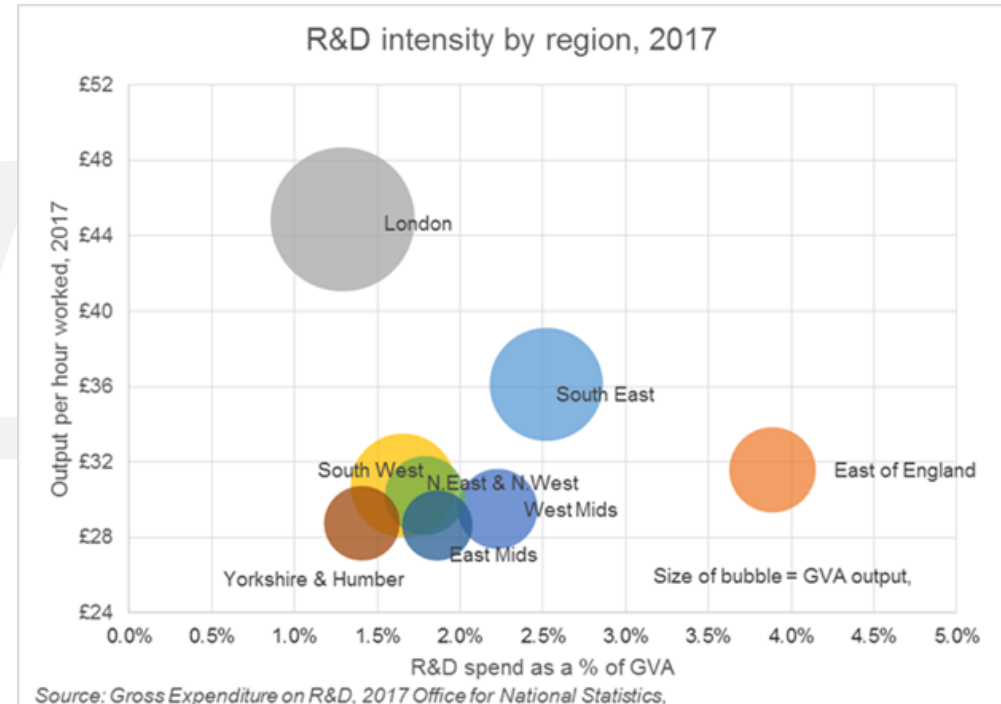
## Innovation

Proportion of West Yorkshire businesses engaged in innovation activities Source: Leeds City Region Business Survey (NB: data not collected in 2018 and 2021)

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.

## Innovation Framework Vision:

“A place that is globally recognised for developing an open, inclusive, thriving and coherent innovation ecosystem, where SMEs, budding entrepreneurs and individuals are inspired to innovate, and can easily navigate the support landscape and connect and collaborate with others to create new and better solutions for business growth and societal good.”

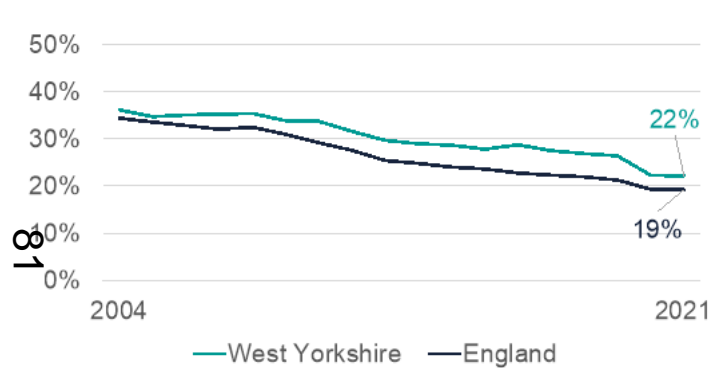


# Skills

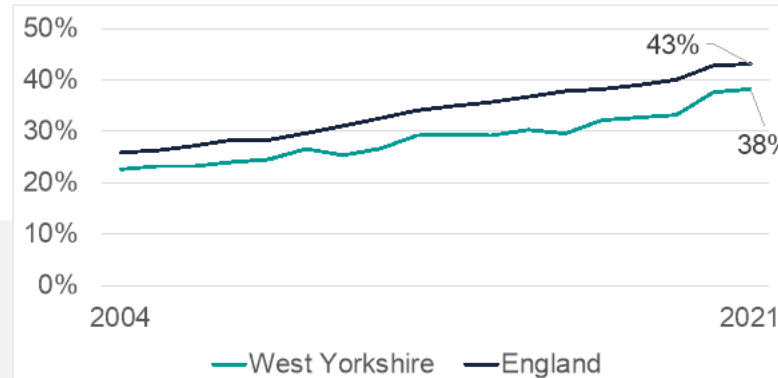
One of the key challenges facing West Yorkshire is a deficit in its skills base relative to other parts of the UK. This is closely associated with its underperformance on productivity and innovation.

*“Our vision is for West Yorkshire to be a world-leading region where investment in skills, training and education, and support for 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.”*

Employment and Skills framework



**People with no / low qualifications**  
% of people aged 16-64 qualified below level 2 or with no qualifications  
Source: ONS APS



**People qualified at Level 4 and above** % of people aged 16-64 whose highest qualification is at Level 4 or above  
Source: ONS APS

*“West Yorkshire has a deficit of high skilled employment. This deficit of workers in higher skilled occupations extends to employment in most industry sectors in the local area, reflecting relatively low value business activities, low productivity and an associated weak demand for skills locally.”* Labour Market Review

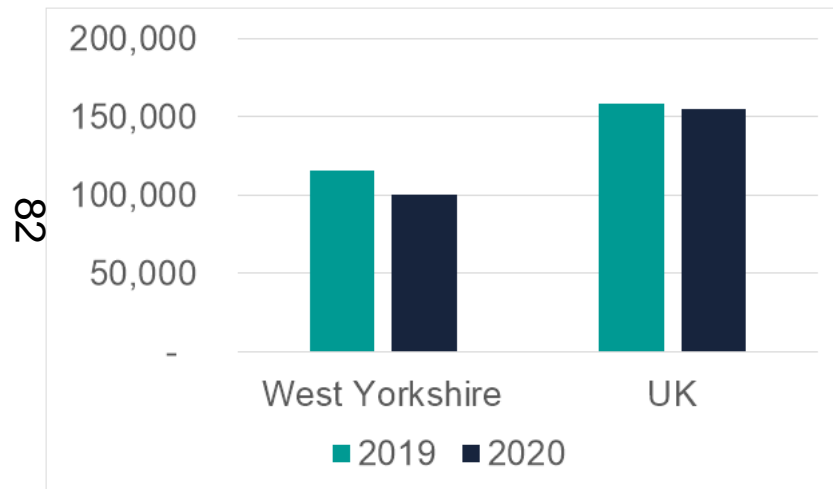
This skills deficit is a function of **low skills equilibrium** – the deficit of skills supply is linked to a **deficit of demand**.

West Yorkshire has a **significant number of people who are excluded from the labour market**, with disadvantaged groups most at risk. These groups and people in deprived areas are less likely to access skills programmes that can aid their progression.

# Trade and Investment

The nature of our polycentric economy means there is plentiful supply of international trade opportunities available to businesses in this region. We have a strong concentration of manufacturing businesses, more than anywhere else in the north, an unrivalled health ecosystem, the UK's fastest growing digital sector and the largest financial and professional services cluster outside of central London. We undoubtedly have the business assets to be a UK leader on international trade.

*Trade and Investment Strategy.*



*Service exports per £m of GVA*

Source: ONS, International exports of services from subnational areas of the UK

International trade is a key enabler of many policy priorities for Leeds City Region. There is a strong link between international trade and business productivity, innovation and resilience. Businesses who trade internationally also create higher quality direct and indirect jobs. Businesses who trade internationally are also important ambassadors for our region, often creating a better understanding of different cultures and building valuable partnerships and alliances.

The impact of the pandemic on trade between the UK and the world has been significant in its scale, and it is unclear at this stage whether this effect will be temporary or lasting. 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.

# Post-Covid impacts on the workforce

- According to figures from November 2022, around 9% of workers in West Yorkshire work exclusively from home, 31% work from home sometimes (hybrid) and 59% do not work from home at all. More than half of hybrid workers commute the full-time-equivalent of between 1 and 3 days a week
- Weekday footfall at Leeds rail station is currently around three-quarters of pre-pandemic level, whilst Leeds weekday radial traffic count is 13% below pre-pandemic.
- <sup>83</sup> Workers are spending more time in the residential neighbourhoods in which they live, and less time in the city centres where they work with consequences for locally consumed services, such as cafes, hairdressers and retail shops. It is estimated that working from home will reallocate £3 billion in retail and hospitality spending from city centres to residential neighbourhoods in England and Wales
- Leeds City Centre is worst-affected neighbourhood outside London with an estimated spending reduction of £35m per annum (-6%) and a loss of employment of 21,000 (including loss 1,000 retail and hospitality jobs)
- Around 8% of total vacancies (online job postings) advertised in 2022 were for jobs with facility to work remotely, rising to 9% for West Yorkshire vacancies.

# Headline SWOT – to be updated during Consultation

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A polycentric area containing a mix of major cities, towns and rural communities</li> <li>• A diverse and growing population</li> <li>• A highly diverse economy that can help to withstand sector-specific shocks and challenges.</li> <li>• Substantial university asset base, with research strengths in key growth areas of health, AI, and digital</li> <li>• Increasing demand for green skills in the labour market</li> <li>• A globally competitive city with high levels of high-growth start-ups</li> <li>• Areas of genuine strength and distinction including health tech, technical services and highly specialised manufacturing industries</li> <li>• A vibrant cultural scene with outstanding heritage and natural beauty</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Productivity is below national levels in all parts of our area, and the gap to national performance is not closing.</li> <li>• Despite improvements there remains a gap between local and national skill levels, particularly for higher level skills</li> <li>• Relatively low levels of business investment in R&amp;D and innovation activity.</li> <li>• Investment in the transport system has not kept pace with economic and population growth. Congestion and capacity constraints risk hampering future economic growth.</li> <li>• Some of the highest levels of deprivation in the country, with pockets across the area that have not changed over many years</li> <li>• Lack of an OEM presents challenges around the coherence of supply chains and the productivity benefits such businesses can bring.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing exposure to key non-EU export markets such as US and China could deliver a productivity dividend</li> <li>• Economic opportunities linked to energy and low carbon with investment in green infrastructure</li> <li>• Growth of AI capabilities and digital specialisms</li> <li>• University cluster provide opportunities to increase business innovation performance through collaboration.</li> <li>• Manufacturing subsectors offer degrees of employment specialism, though professional services jobs have seen strongest growth.</li> <li>• High growth potential start-ups in key sectors</li> <li>• A tighter labour market offers potential to upskill existing staff, increase earnings and build a more inclusive economy.</li> <li>• A unique position in the health system, with strong research capabilities, leading hospitals, national NHS institutions, and a specialised medical manufacturing industry providing an opportunity for a whole system approach to health.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of investment risks further weakening of productivity performance with inflation and interest rate pressures on ability to invest</li> <li>• Changing in working patterns and working from home impact on city centre economies</li> <li>• Health inequalities and ageing population</li> <li>• Longer term impact of Brexit and regulatory shifts</li> <li>• Cost of childcare and pressures on the sector creating barriers to work</li> <li>• Climate change, high energy costs and cost-of-living and doing business crisis putting pressure on business growth and survival</li> <li>• Insufficient access to appropriately skilled workers could constrain businesses' ability to grow and this could be compounded by lack of responsiveness in skills system.</li> <li>• Automation and AI poses a threat to a significant number of jobs in a range of industries, particularly for lower skilled workers.</li> <li>• The lack of a clear unique sector strength or focal point for economic narrative could reduce the area's distinctiveness.</li> </ul>



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**Report to:** Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

**Date:** 13 June 2023

**Subject:** **Investment Zones**

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**Led By:** Mark Roberts, Interim Chair

**Lead Officer:** Liz Hunter, Director of Policing, Place and Environment

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## 1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. To update the Board on proposals relating to Investment Zones and seek feedback on interventions that can drive forward business growth and innovation.

## 2. Information

### Overview of Investment Zones

- 2.1. In the Spring Budget the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Government would introduce Investment Zones – a new policy instrument that is designed to help areas level-up, increase the rates of innovation and secure additional private sector investment.
- 2.2. Government have aligned Investment Zone's with the objectives set out in the Levelling Up White Paper. Therefore, Investment Zones have been established in places with significant unmet productivity potential, and where existing strengths and assets aligned to priority sectors can be leveraged to increase opportunities for local communities<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.3. West Yorkshire was selected as one of the Mayoral Combined Authorities to progress proposals for hosting an Investment Zone and is now progressing the development of a proposal in collaboration with Local Authorities, universities and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC). Investment Zones are not a competitive funding process, and the Combined Authority will not be bidding against other areas for funding.

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<sup>1</sup> [Investment Zone Policy Prospectus.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

- 2.4. The Investment Zones Policy Prospectus identified five sectors which selected areas must align their proposals to. These are: health and life sciences; digital and tech; advanced manufacturing; creative industries; and green industries.
- 2.5. The policy programmes are designed to be delivered over five years (2024-2029) and each place will receive £80 million which can be spent on a combination of:
- **Tax Sites:** the creation of new tax-zones that will provide businesses with exemptions from the likes of employer National Insurance Contributions and Stamp Duty (to name a few). Each region can create up to three tax sites (altogether totalling no more than 600 hectares).
  - **Business Rates Retention:** 100% relief from business rates on newly occupied business premises, and certain existing businesses where they expand in Investment Zone tax sites. This can be agreed over a baseline of 25 years.
  - **Flexible Spend:** an opportunity to introduce new revenue or capital programmes which can operate on a regional geography. This can include developing business support, innovation, skills and inward investment programmes to the targeted sectors. In addition, any capital infrastructure projects aligned to the objectives in the Investment Zone Policy Prospectus.

### **Current Progress**

- 2.6. Since the Chancellor's announcement, the Combined Authority, with local authorities and Yorkshire Universities, has held inception meetings with DLUHC to discuss next steps and the process for developing the region's proposals. This includes agreeing:
- A chosen geography and sector.
  - Appropriate governance mechanisms to oversee the Investment Zone proposal.
  - Any tax-incentive sites, spatial planning or business rate interventions.
  - Flexible spend interventions (revenue and capital projects such as business support programmes).
- 2.7. The Combined Authority submitted a sector and geography proposal in late May. This proposal focuses on our strengths in health innovation (life-sciences), digital/tech – and critically the overlapping specialism of digital health. Our focus will be to drive innovation (including levelling up and business investment) via a focus on startups/spin outs, scale-ups and inward investment.
- 2.8. Our diverse economic structure means we are poised to be a test bed of innovation and new ways of working. An Investment Zone opportunity provides West Yorkshire with the chance to be bolder and ambitious in developing the relationship between our universities and business.
- 2.9. Our vision for a West Yorkshire Investment Zone reflects the diversity of our local economy and our nationally significant strengths in the accordant sectors of



Digital and Health/life sciences. It also provides an opportunity for the region to capitalise on the strong global connections that have been built over the last decade and address the varied levels of innovation maturity across the region.

### **Driving Business Growth & Innovation**

- 2.10. Delivery of our Investment Zone proposition will support our regional West Yorkshire Innovation Framework that sets out our priorities to drive up business innovation – through a focus on both R&D intensive innovation through to innovation diffusion and the adoption of new technologies and business practices.
- 2.11. Despite successes, we know that many businesses in the region continue to underperform against their potential' but an Investment Zone can unlock this for businesses in our chosen sectors.
- 2.12. Businesses in West Yorkshire consistently report the following barriers to innovation, reflected in both the UK Innovation Strategy and local research: high innovation costs for SMEs; finance costs and availability; economic risks; lack of market and technology information and lack of qualified personnel. In addition to this, at a regional level, we know that:
  - Only 42.5% of businesses in West Yorkshire define themselves as innovation active (this is behind South Yorkshire, the West Midlands and Greater Manchester).
  - The region also has the lowest levels of investment in R&D per £1 million of GVA of any English region outside of London.
  - Only 23% of businesses participate in knowledge transfer and only 21% invest in R&D.
  - Businesses are most likely to collaborate with other businesses (42%) with only 18% engaging with a university.
- 2.13. Taking our regional performance on innovation into account, revenue interventions in an Investment Zone proposal could drive forward business growth and innovation and can support a mix of both start-up and scale-up businesses.
- 2.14. In particular, there is an opportunity to use revenue funding, in addition to capital and other potential measures) to deliver regional programmes that:
  - Provide equity finance support to innovative businesses to grow and scale (through methods such as angel investment, venture capital and crowdfunding).
  - Deliver bespoke accelerator programmes across the chosen sectors to build a pipeline of investable companies and support getting ideas off the ground.
  - Create additional business incubation space across the region to support start-ups during the earliest stages of their business journey, complementary to any existing offers.
  - Provide new grant-funding or voucher schemes to support business research and development activities.

- Support a series of skills-related interventions such as support relating to PhD commercialisation, leadership and management or mentoring.
- Support to help crowd in additional private sector investment into the region from businesses specifically operating in health and digital.

### **Next Steps**

- 2.15. Over the spring and early summer, the Combined Authority, in collaboration with local authorities, universities and the business ecosystem will refine proposals.
- 2.16. In particular, work will begin on identifying the appropriate interventions that the Investment Zone will deliver across the region. This includes business engagement and university workshops which will be scheduled in June or July. Members of the LEP Board would be welcome to attend any engagement sessions that are being planned with businesses over the coming month and help shape the proposals.
- 2.17. Alongside this, the Combined Authority and local authorities will begin to explore any capital interventions that will comprise of the Investment Zone proposals and the scope for any particular tax or business rate retention sites.
- 2.17. The Combined Authority will submit a final proposal in Autumn 2023, with an anticipated commencement date for the Investment Zone to begin 'delivery' in Q1 2024.

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

- 3.1. Any interventions will be designed to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the region's ambitions to secure net-zero by 2038. Part of our proposal has the opportunity to support the green-tech / green-finance sector across the region which could support the transition to a low-carbon economy across West Yorkshire.

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

- 4.1. Inclusive growth is a cross cutting theme across the Combined Authority's portfolio of business support programmes and these principles will be applied to any interventions which make up the Investment Zone proposal.

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

- 5.1. Any interventions (in particular any revenue funding) under the Investment Zone proposal will take into consideration EDI implications. This will include the likes of programme targets to ensure geographical representation across the region and to reach and support underrepresented members of the business community of the chosen sectors.

### **6. Financial Implications**

6.1. Funding will be drawn from the £80 million as part of the Investment Zone offer. There is also the opportunity to leverage additional funding through the private sector.

## **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 LEP Board notes progress on Investment Zones.

10.2. That the LEP Board provides feedback on revenue-focused interventions which will support businesses in the chosen sectors to grow and scale.

## **11. Background Documents**

Investment Zones [Policy Prospectus](#)

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**Report to:** Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

**Date:** 13 June 2023

**Subject:** **Committees Update Report**

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**Led by:** Mark Roberts, Interim Chair

**Lead Officer:** Myles Larrington, Governance Services Officer

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## 1. Purpose of this report

To provide the LEP Board with a brief update from the six Thematic Committees at the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Any substantial items from the committees will be brought to the LEP Board as separate agenda items for comment and feedback.

## 2. Information

### Thematic Committee Updates

#### 2.1 Business, Economy and Innovation Committee

2.1.1 The Committee met on 29 March and considered a range of reports to support businesses in the region and grow the economy.

2.1.2 A paper was presented on innovation finance policy and development alongside an overview of the Combined Authority's decision to invest in Northern Gritstone Ltd, a venture capital firm providing venture capital to university spinouts and high-growth companies across the North of England.

2.1.3 The Committee also discussed two reports on the Business Support team. The first report considered EDI and the Committee endorsed proposals to develop and EDI Strategy for the Business Support team. The second paper discussed "principles" for Business Support, including an approach to more targeted business support in new and upcoming services.

2.1.4 The Committee also received an update on inward investment, citing highlights from 2022/2023 and endorsed proposals to develop a new Inward Investment Strategy for the region.

## **2.2 Climate, Energy and Environment Committee**

- 2.2.1 The Committee met on 21 March and considered a range of reports relating to tackling the climate emergency. They were also asked to provide approval for two projects to allow them to enter delivery.
- 2.2.2 A paper on monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the Climate and Environment Plan (CEP) was presented to the Committee. This aims to provide the Combined Authority with a flexible way to monitor progress towards the commitments in the CEP. Feedback was provided by the Committee.
- 2.2.3 The Committee approved £2,060,000 of funding for the Better Neighbourhoods programme, a community grants programme for net zero projects. Approval was also granted for the programme to move into delivery.
- 2.2.4 The Committee also approved £366,310 of funding for the Combined Authority Assets Solar Project – Bus Stations, a project to install solar panels on seven of the Combined Authority’s bus stations. Approval was also granted for the project to move into delivery.
- 2.2.5 Committee were also provided with updates on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, including proposed governance arrangements, flooding (both the capital and natural flood management programmes), and Better Homes Hub.

## **2.3 Culture, Heritage and Sport Committee**

- 2.3.1 No formal meeting of the Culture Heritage and Sport Committee was held during this period.
- 2.3.2 Members of the Culture, Heritage and Sport Committee met on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March at the Piece Hall for a private workshop.
- 2.3.3 It was an opportunity for the Mayor, Deputy Chair Nicky Chance-Thompson, and Interim Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills and Culture Phil Witcherley to update Committee members on progress against the Culture, Heritage and Sport Framework, almost one year on from the large consultation exercise to get stakeholder feedback on the frameworks aims and objectives.
- 2.3.4 Members were given an opportunity to share their successes, discuss how this mapped against the Framework and how the Committee can work collectively to share these stories in the future.
- 2.3.5 There was also an exercise to gather committee members thoughts and feedback on what a West Yorkshire Trailblazer deal should include from a culture, heritage and sport background, and to also get their high-level thoughts on Investment Zones.

## **2.4 Employment and Skills Committee**

- 2.4.1 The Committee met on 23<sup>rd</sup> March during the pre-election period, and considered reports on Adult Skills, Green Jobs Taskforce and Future Funding Priorities.

- 2.4.2 The Committee received comprehensive verbal updates on the Spring Budget Statement including the packages of support focussed on employment and new emerging DWP programmes. The Committee also heard from the Chambers of Commerce leading the Local Skills Improvement Plans work commissioned by DfE to capture and ensure employer voice is part of planning for future skills provision. The Chambers noted that there was distance to travel to ensure the LSIP in West Yorkshire is able to fulfil its ambitions.
- 2.4.3 A detailed thematic paper on adult skills provision context, delivery and next steps was presented and the Committee considered and approved a change request to Skills Bootcamps programmes to reflect additional funding received from DfE and note the key achievements and progress of the first year delivery of devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB). Proposals to develop E&S programmes were also supported by the Committee.

## **2.5 Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee**

- 2.5.1 The Committee met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March and considered reports on the Strategic Place Partnership, Creating Places and Accelerating Infrastructure Programme Development, the Dementia Task Force and the West Yorkshire Digital Blueprint and Local Digital Partnership.
- 2.5.2 The Committee were also given an update on relevant monitoring indicators from the State of the Region report, including housing and rental affordability, fuel poverty and digital accessibility, alongside Marcoeconomy Economic Analysis.
- 2.5.3 The Committee endorsed the Strategic Place Partnership Business Plan. This sets the shared ambition of the Combined Authority and Homes England to build and strengthen collaborative working across the region with the following agreed strategic objectives:
- SO1 - Develop short, medium and long term investment ready proposals to unlock and accelerate housing delivery and regeneration across West Yorkshire, supporting the region's levelling up, economic growth and inclusivity objectives.
  - SO2 - Realise opportunities to create and grow sustainable neighbourhoods contributing to the region's net zero carbon ambitions.
  - SO3 - Improve the supply of good quality and affordable homes providing greater choice and opportunity for people to access a home in West Yorkshire that meets their housing need
- 2.5.4 An update was provided on Programme Development work relating to delivery of Investment Priority 3 (IP3) Creating Great Places and Accelerating Infrastructure. A portfolio of programmes/projects identified across a range of themes, including flood, housing, employment land and Spatial Priority Areas to deliver the objectives of IP3. This was an update following submission of a Strategic Assessment in February for consideration by the Combined Authority.

Further business case development on specific themes will be consulted on as they are developed.

- 2.5.5 The Committee were also given an update on ongoing work by the Dementia Ready Task Force and proposals to refresh the 2019 Digital Framework and creation of a Local Digital Partnership.
- 2.5.6 Finally, the Committee gave project approval to the BHF Railway Street scheme to progress to Decision Point 4 (Full Business Case) with £1,500,000 of Combined Authority funding and a total scheme value of £11,842,757. The scheme will develop 58 affordable homes in the Burmantofts and Richmond Hill areas in Leeds.
- 2.5.7 The Committee also met on 1<sup>st</sup> June and considered reports covering the Combined Authorities housing work programmes and strategic sites programmes. The Committee were also given an update on relevant monitoring indicators from the state of the Region report, in particular at this meeting this included newly released data on house price to income ratios as a measure of housing affordability.
- 2.5.8 The housing update paper presented to the committee included key updates on progress towards delivery of the Mayors housing pledge and key programme developments including the Housing Accelerator Fund business case currently in development and the Brownfield Housing Fund.
- 2.5.9 The Strategic Sites report presented to the committee included an update on work to progress the Spatial Priority Area delivery models, an update on the Langthwaite employment site in Wakefield, the development of the business case for the Employment Accelerator Fund and progress on the Investment Zones.

## **2.6 Transport Committee**

- 2.6.1 This Committee met on 10<sup>th</sup> March, and considered reports on the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), passenger experience and a project approval for a scheme at Bradford Interchange.
- 2.6.2 A draft Passenger Charter was presented to Committee as part of the BSIP report, which was developed and endorsed by the Bus Alliance Board. The Charter sets out:
- What the passenger can expect from bus services in terms of on buses, at bus stops and stations, reliability of service and passenger information
  - How the bus service will support equality, diversity and inclusion
  - What the service operator will guarantee
  - How to make comments and complaints
- 2.6.3 The Passenger Charter was approved for adoption.



- 2.6.4 The BSIP report also provided an update on bus infrastructure funding relating to the recently successful Levelling up Fund bid.
- 2.6.5 A quarterly report was presented, to provide an update on the performance of the transport network in West Yorkshire, including an update on the Combined Authority's passenger facing activity. The Committee noted the content.
- 1.1.6 Finally, a report on proposals for the progression of, and funding for projects under Investment Priority 5 – Delivering Sustainable, Inclusive and Affordable transport within the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS), that have been considered at stages 1, 2 or 3 of the Combined Authority's assurance process, was presented. The Committee noted a number of project approvals made in line with the Combined Authority's assurance process, and approved progression of a Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) scheme at Bradford Interchange through decision point 3 (outline business case), and further development funding to commence work on activity 4 (full business case).
- 1.1.7 The Committee also met on 26<sup>th</sup> May, and considered reports on a variety of topics.
- 1.1.8 A report was presented seeking approval to go out and consult on the draft rail strategy, which has been developed over the last few months. This is a technical rail document, which will set the policy for future investment in rail to be made. Consultation of the draft document will take place over the summer.
- 1.1.9 The Committee also considered a report on Local Engagement Forums, and re-establishing arrangements for these in 2023/24. A Transport Engagement Lead will be identified for each Council area, and they will hold two forum's each their respective area over the next municipal year, to give opportunity for engagement locally on transport related matters, and provide a link back into the Transport Committee on Combined Authority transport activity.
- 1.1.10 There was a quarterly update report on Transport Policy matters not covered elsewhere in the report, covering Transport for the North activity, Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund and the Public Particulate Information Improvement (PIIP) project. A verbal update on the outcome of the Active Travel Fund (ATF) 4 programme was also given. The Committee noted the content.
- 1.1.11 A BSIP report was presented, which focussed on the state of the local bus network and ongoing delivery of BSIP. A verbal update was given in the meeting regarding the recent announcement by Government on future funding for local buses. This report also included the approval of funding to deliver an initial tranche of enhancements to the local bus network, and continued delivery of Mayor's Fares up to March 2024.
- 1.1.12 A further report was presented, to provide an update on the performance of the transport network in West Yorkshire, including an update on the Combined Authority's passenger facing activity. The Committee noted the content.

- 1.1.13 The Transport Committee then noted the actions being taken to ensure the provision of MyBus primary school services remains within the policy guidelines set by the Committee in 2019.
- 1.1.14 Finally, a report on proposals for the progression of, and funding for projects under Investment Priority 5 – Delivering Sustainable, Inclusive and Affordable transport within the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS), that have been considered at stages 1, 2 or 3 of the Combined Authority’s assurance process, was presented. The Committee noted a number of project approvals made in line with the Combined Authority’s assurance process, and approved the progression of Combined Services and Assets (CoSA) database through decision point 2 to 4, and work commence on activity 5 (delivery). Leeds City Bike scheme was approved to move from decision point 4 into activity 5 (delivery), a change request for Thorpe Park Rail Station to increase the Combined Authority’s contribution to the scheme and release funding from DfT New Stations Fund 3 for continued development and early works, and a further change request to increase the funding for Halifax Bus Station scheme, which is currently under construction.

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

- 3.1 There are no climate emergency implications directly arising from this report. Any implications from reports will have been addressed at the respective meeting of the Thematic Committee.

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

- 4.1 There are no inclusive growth implications directly arising from this report. Any implications from reports will have been addressed at the respective meeting of that Thematic Committee.

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

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report. Any implications from reports will have been addressed at the respective meeting of that Thematic Committee.

### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. Any implications from reports will have been addressed at the respective meeting of that Thematic Committee.

### **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report. Any implications from reports will have been addressed at the respective meeting of that Thematic Committee.

### **8. Staffing Implications**

8.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report. Any implications from reports will have been addressed at the respective meeting of that Thematic Committee.

**9. External Consultees**

9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

**10. Recommendations**

10.1 That the LEP Board notes the updates from the Thematic Committees

**11. Background Documents**

11.1 There are no background documents referenced in this report.

**12. Appendices**

12.1 There are no appendices to this report.

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**Report to:** Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

**Date:** 13 June 2023

**Subject:** **West Yorkshire Plan**

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**Led By:** Mark Roberts, Interim Chair

**Lead Officer:** Alan Reiss, Chief Operating Officer

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## 1. Purpose of this report

1.1 To seek endorsement of the West Yorkshire Plan by the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board.

## 2. Information

### West Yorkshire Plan development

2.1 Work has been ongoing over a number of months to develop a West Yorkshire Plan to provide an overarching strategic framework for the region. The West Yorkshire Plan will set the trajectory for the long-term up to 2040 and reflect development in the region through the devolution deal and the accompanying new powers and funding.

2.2 The West Yorkshire Plan sets out a shared vision, narrative, and ambitions for the region. The primary audience for the West Yorkshire Plan is government and regional partners. The purpose of the West Yorkshire Plan is to:

- Explain who West Yorkshire is and what we want to achieve
- 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
- Ensure that all regional partners speak with one strong voice

2.3. The West Yorkshire Plan has been co-produced by the Combined Authority and Local Authority partners with the LEP, and there has also been engagement from Combined Authority committee members, business groups, universities, and other local and regional stakeholders.

2.4. The Plan includes five missions, that are aspirational and represent long term ambitions for West Yorkshire. State of the Region reporting will continue to

provide the monitoring framework underpinning the West Yorkshire Plan targets and wider policies and strategies of the Combined Authority.

- 2.5 The West Yorkshire Plan will strengthen our existing policy framework and sit at the top of a suite of policies and strategies aligned to areas of delivery. This will include the Local Transport Plan, the Economic Strategy (currently in development), and the Police and Crime Plan.
- 2.6 The West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS) will continue to set out the funding priorities for the Combined Authority and the next iteration of the WYIS will speak to the West Yorkshire Plan's ambitions.
- 2.7 A draft of the West Yorkshire Plan was published and shared widely with Combined Authority stakeholders including all committees, the Business Communications Group, universities, local authorities and wider stakeholders. Feedback from this engagement has been merged into the draft attached as Appendix One to this report for approval by the Combined Authority.

#### Publishing and launch

- 2.8 The West Yorkshire Plan was approved at the Combined Authority meeting on 25 May, as such activity will now focus on bringing key messages from the plan to life through videos, infographics and other means.
- 2.9 To accompany the document a web platform hosting the Plan along with the suite of existing policies and strategies of the Combined Authority will be created.
- 2.10 Work to operationalise the Plan is also being undertaken by Combined Authority and local authority officers, this includes developing a user guide to support officers to know how and when to use the key messages of the Plan and a performance framework.
- 2.11 A launch event is being planned for 16 June bringing together political leaders and the mayor with key stakeholders.

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

- 3.1 Tackling the Climate Emergency is embedded within the Plan, with targets included to become a net zero carbon economy by 2038 and to develop a sustainable transport system.

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

- 4.1 An inclusive economy with well paid jobs is one of the missions of the Plan.

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

5.1 The vision and missions of the Plan put equity, diversity, and inclusion at the heart of everything we do. The Plan emphasises that we will lead the way to embed these values across all our work.

## **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 Consultation has been undertaken as detailed in the main body of this report.

## **10. Recommendations**

10.1 That LEP Board Members note the Combined Authority's adoption of the West Yorkshire Plan, which is included at Appendix One.

10.2 That LEP Board Members endorse the West Yorkshire Plan.

## **11. Background Documents**

[State of the Region 2022](#)  
[Draft West Yorkshire Plan for consultation](#)

## **12. Appendices**

Appendix 1 –West Yorkshire Plan

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DRAFT IMAGE

2040

## The West Yorkshire Plan

A brighter West Yorkshire that works for all

# Introduction

Here in West Yorkshire, we are ambitious, and not afraid to take on challenges. **This is our plan to create a brighter West Yorkshire that works for all.**

West Yorkshire has always been a place bursting with ideas, energy, and creativity. We are a family with a long history of collaboration borne out of our shared priorities and strong partnerships.

We know that we can only achieve success working together. Our success is dependent on all parts of the region thriving, contributing, being championed and celebrated.

The West Yorkshire Plan sets out an ambitious vision and five missions for 2040 that will drive our work to transform lives and communities across the region. The missions have

been informed by our values and ambitions, whilst being underpinned by robust evidence. They will focus all our work for the long-term and set the framework for our strategies and investments for the future.

The Plan has been developed and will be driven forward by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and five Local Authorities, in consultation and partnership with a range of private, public and voluntary and community sector partners. No one organisation can deliver these ambitions, it is only by the whole region working together that our vision will be realised.



# The West Yorkshire 2040

## Vision and missions

### Our vision:

A brighter West Yorkshire –  
a place that works for all.  
An engine room of ideas and  
creativity, where anyone  
can make a home.

Our vision and missions put equity, diversity, and inclusion at the heart of everything we do. We will lead the way to embed these values across all our work.

### The West Yorkshire Plan includes:

- The West Yorkshire story – our region's unique identity
- The future of West Yorkshire – our vision and missions for 2040
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an inclusive economy with well paid jobs

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# The West Yorkshire Story

## Our region's unique identity

### Our pioneering heritage

Here in West Yorkshire, we are different. We are single-minded pioneers, determined and hard-working, ambitious, and creative, and not afraid to take on challenges. These traits put us at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution and made us a manufacturing powerhouse of the world.

West Yorkshire has a long history of innovation and industry, delivering economic success alongside social progress. Industrialists such as Sir Titus Salt had a vision for the model village of Saltaire, supporting people out of poverty and into skilled work. Betty Beecroft's courage and ambition developed Kirkstall Forge, one of the oldest, most continuously-used industrial sites in England. Benjamin Gott revolutionised the production of woollen cloth and with his success invested in the cultural and civic life of Leeds.

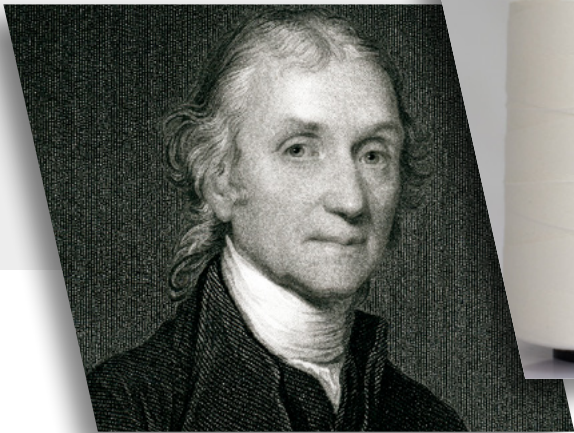
Innovative ideas are our bread and butter, powering the region's success. Our story is filled with ground-breaking discoveries and transformative practices. From firsts in the world of film and transportation, to the production of world-renowned video games and pioneering medical technologies such as Thackary Ltd's work on hip replacements and Paxman Coolers' cancer treatment.

It was our region that connected people across the world, with PACE producing the first low cost, commercially available modem. And it was here that the invention of Cat's Eye technology provided light in the darkness to transform road safety globally.

Pioneering textile technologies created during the Industrial Revolution have developed to become cutting-edge techniques using recycled and recovered plastics.

It's our region that connected people across the world.





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We embrace our industrial heritage, paving the way for the emergence of new industries.

Weaving technology is now used to make super-strength jet engine parts.

It was at the University of Leeds that William Bragg's revolutionary research on X-ray crystallography changed the face of modern science. Born in Birstall, Joseph Priestly is credited with the discovery of oxygen and conducted early experiments on the carbon cycle.

Marks & Spencer, one of the most recognisable shops in the country, began from just a small market stall in Leeds.

Towering figures across the arts have been inspired by our places: from the Brontë sisters and the Poet Laureate Simon Armitage, to David Hockney, Anne Lister and Barbara Hepworth, from the countercultural post-punk movement to the biggest pop groups in the world.

We are the birthplace of rugby league, and sporting success runs through our region. From unsung pioneers such as world-beating cyclist Beryl Burton, to extraordinary Olympians and Paralympians like Nicola Adams, the Brownlee brothers, Kadeena Cox and Hannah Cockroft. These inspirational figures show our grit and determination, with their eyes on the prize, they just don't give up.

Once the home of Crossley Carpets, the world's largest carpet manufacturer, Dean Clough is now a vibrant 22-acre mixed-use mill complex. A thriving community which combines arts and culture, leisure facilities, restaurants, bars, cafés, shops, event spaces, offices and a hotel.

Following decades of neglect, Conditioning House, a Victorian Mill in Bradford has won awards after being converted into modern apartments, office space, a gym and new café, and the stunning but abandoned Temple Works in Leeds will be brought back to life as the home of the British Library North.

We embrace our industrial heritage, paving the way for the emergence of new industries at the cutting edge of health and technology, inventing and manufacturing products that will solve challenges of the future – enabling people to live longer, healthier, and greener lives.

## Contemporary innovation

Throughout our history we have welcomed people to West Yorkshire to help build and shape the places and industries we know today. Now, we build on our past and celebrate our diversity to create a better future. We are proud to be one of the most diverse parts of the UK. We are connected to communities across the world with hundreds of languages spoken. As we look to the future, our diversity will continue to grow, and we will harness this rich tapestry of creative thinkers and passionate voices to champion change.

Our region is home to over 2.4 million people, workforce of 1.2 million, and around 95,000 businesses.

And it's not just our people who are diverse, our unique places have their own distinct and exciting identities. The globally competitive city of Leeds sits alongside the vibrant cities of Bradford and Wakefield, together with lively towns, stunning countryside, and dynamic rural communities creating places that work for all. West Yorkshire boasts an array of attractions and world class cultural assets such as the beautiful Pennine Moors and Peak District parkland in Kirklees, The Hepworth Wakefield and Yorkshire Sculpture Park, vibrant market towns in Calderdale, and a Saltaire World Heritage site in Bradford.

Year after year we stage internationally renowned music festivals and celebrations of creativity, with Production Park producing the innovative staging for international artists such as Beyonce and Lady Gaga. The region will rise to the occasion again when Bradford becomes the UK's City of Culture in 2025 with opportunities across all our communities.

Our countryside and green infrastructure are environmental assets that we celebrate and enhance to help us tackle the climate and ecological emergency. Our collection of prosperous cities, thriving market towns and beautiful villages, the urban and the rural, provide a compelling quality of life for residents each with their own unique and magical identity. This interconnected network of urban and rural centres makes West Yorkshire genuinely distinctive.

Our diverse economic structure means we are poised to be a test bed of innovation and new ways of working. An idea can spark here, develop, then cascade to the rest of the country and beyond. We are perfectly positioned to be the key driver of economic growth not just for the North of England, but the whole of the UK.

Our seven world class universities mean we attract and retain talent from around the region and around the world, creating a magnet for international businesses who flock to our region to pioneer innovations in transportation, digital, health, and manufacturing.

Our leading expertise in health, combined with our manufacturing and textiles heritage and growing digital sector means that the region has a vital role to play in the development of the health industry in the UK and





## Key features of our economy include:

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- **Advanced manufacturing** – specialisms in textiles, furniture, and clothing
- A fast-growing **digital sector** with major tech employers
- Being a global leader in **healthcare technology** with six government health headquarters – over 22% of the UK’s digital health jobs are based in West Yorkshire
- The UK’s largest regional **finance centre** with international strengths in Fin Tech including a growing financial cluster of public and private capital
- Our **voluntary and community sector** enables communities to understand, connect, and utilise their innate skills, gifts, and knowledge to drive solutions

beyond. By harnessing and building on these unique strengths, West Yorkshire’s healthcare ecosystem has the potential to solve national and international challenges posed by demographic and social changes, helping people to be well and live well.

Nexus in Leeds and the 3M Buckley Innovation Centre at the University of Huddersfield build on our legacy, innovating and collaborating in energy, transport, health tech, medicines, medical devices, diagnostics, data, and manufacturing.

Using world-leading research facilities, The University of Huddersfield’s Health Innovation Campus will make Huddersfield a national centre for the training of medical practitioners.

But for all these ideas to fly, we need data. West Yorkshire is home to internationally recognised research such as Born in Bradford, bringing new insights into childhood health, while empowering young people to control their own data. Space Hub Yorkshire is driving new satellite and geospatial data markets, attracting collaborations from across the world.

Our region consistently grows and adapts. Our past is woven into our present and we reinvent our brilliant landmarks and buildings ready for the future. The Piece Hall in Halifax, once a centre of trade for the textile industry of West Yorkshire, now attracts millions of global visitors to the area with its mix of independent bars, restaurants, shops, music acts and art exhibitions.

Leeds Arts University • Leeds Beckett University • Leeds Conservatoire • Leeds Trinity University • University of Leeds • University of Bradford • University of Huddersfield • Bradford College • Calderdale College • Kirklees College • Luminate Education Group • Leeds College of Music • Shipley College • Wakefield College

7  
110

## internationally renowned universities

hosting around **111,000 students** and producing **35,000 graduates** each year

With a unique partnership with Yorkshire universities to ensure that West Yorkshire fully benefits from the research, innovation and talent pipeline of all our universities

7

## further education colleges

and a wide range of independent skills providers, including the only specialist construction college in the UK

Long-standing commitment across the skills sector to collaborate towards creating the best talent in West Yorkshire





# Understanding who we are and where we want to be is key to our future success.

When the Grade-II 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 Channel 4. The derelict mills next to The Hepworth Wakefield are now home to Tileyard North, one of the best recording studios and music engineer training facilities in Europe.

As a region, working together as the West Yorkshire family, we have committed to be net zero carbon, have built new infrastructure, connected our towns and cities, attracted investment, developed land, supported businesses to start-up, innovate and grow and supported skills and training to power us through the tough times, ready for the exciting opportunities ahead.

Now is our chance to use all that knowledge to cement our status as the go-to place for business, attracting entrepreneurs, investors, developers and creatives. To seize the opportunities to tackle the challenges we face, from the climate emergency and nature recovery, to deprivation, fuel poverty and poor health that blights parts of our region.

As a partnership, we will lead the way, learning lessons from our industrial past to create a dynamic, thriving, resilient future. We have the knowledge, the expertise, and the ambition to use these achievements as a catalyst, backed up by our evidence-based policy development to ensure we have the right strategies in place for a brighter future.

We are home to the best and the brightest, in lockstep across the region to deliver a future-focussed West Yorkshire. Kind, hard-working, and friendly people make West Yorkshire the best place to live, raise a family, start a business, and grow old.

Our story inspires us to write a new chapter for West Yorkshire, driven by our vision and steered by five ambitious missions for change. To make our region a place to do well and be well. A place to be happy. **A brighter West Yorkshire that works for all.**



# The Future of West Yorkshire

## Our vision and missions for 2040

Our vision for the future is rooted in our region's extraordinary story. **A brighter West Yorkshire – a place that works for all.** An engine room of ideas and creativity where anyone can make a home.

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 ambitions to life.

The missions represent a long-term focus on positive outcomes. There is no simple solution or stand-alone initiative that will deliver the change we want to see. Each mission requires focused action in partnership

between the public, private, voluntary and community sectors. The projects and programmes that we develop, deliver, support, and champion will all be geared towards the missions. Our progress will be demonstrated by a set of targets underpinned by detailed indicators measured annually in our State of the Region report.



# 1

## Mission 1:

# A prosperous West Yorkshire – an inclusive economy with well paid jobs

### By 2040 we will have:

- **Closed the productivity gap between West Yorkshire and the UK**
- **Living standards above the national average, with no child growing up in poverty**
- **Good quality work available for all**
- **A diverse and inclusive workforce, where everyone who wants to work can**

### Actions for change

Raising the prosperity and real term living standards of all parts of West Yorkshire can only be achieved sustainably by increasing productivity. To do this we will create the conditions to boost the economy so we can see highly skilled, healthy people working in well-paid jobs growing the presence of high productivity businesses and sectors. We will support an environment where entrepreneurial activity is nurtured and can flourish, where it is easy for businesses to start-up, grow, innovate, trade, and invest.

We will support businesses to be resilient, meeting the challenges of the future and embracing the opportunities of digital transformation. We will attract investment and jobs from overseas into our communities and support our businesses to export so that what's made in West Yorkshire is sold to the world.

We will ensure our employers recognise the value of a diverse workforce and invest in talent to develop the skills and progression we need. Where lifelong learning is part of our culture and flexible opportunities meet the needs of business.

We will build integrated infrastructure, attracting investment to create jobs in well-connected places. We will lead on innovation, continuing to build an open, inclusive, and thriving innovation ecosystem, connecting people to stimulate ideas for new products and services, driving investment to meet the challenges of the future.

We will address inequalities experienced by people, communities, and businesses, putting this at the forefront of decisions, whilst celebrating the breadth of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the region.

### Progress will be demonstrated by improvements in:

- **Productivity levels**
- **Number of jobs paying the living wage**
- **Living standards**
- **Child poverty**
- **Skill levels, apprenticeship starts, and people without employability skills**
- **The employment rate and percentage of employees in quality work**
- **The employment rate gap for disadvantaged groups**
- **Growth in key sectors**

# 2

## Mission 2:

# A happy West Yorkshire – great places and healthy communities

### By 2040 we will have:

- **Happy communities living in well-connected, active neighbourhoods with access to culture and green spaces**
- **A truly affordable and high-quality housing offer, meeting the needs of people and communities**
- **Healthy life expectancy equalling the national average**

### Actions for change

We want our region to be a happy place to live with truly affordable homes, putting the wellbeing of our people at the forefront of our agenda. We will ensure that where you live helps promote good health, active lives, and wellbeing, and that life expectancy aligns with the national average. We will use our status as a major player in global health innovation and our significant health assets to support the health and wellbeing of everyone.

We will ensure that people can live in affordable and sustainable homes, making the most of clean technologies of the future.

We will put culture and heritage at the heart of our economy, where creative businesses are encouraged to start-up and grow. Where everyone in West Yorkshire can enjoy our world-class cultural, heritage, and sporting assets. Where no matter where you live, you'll have access to get in and get on in the creative industries.

### Progress will be demonstrated by improvements in:

- **Healthy life expectancy**
- **Access to green space**
- **Activity levels/ participation in sport**
- **Wellbeing levels**
- **Access to culture**
- **Broadband and mobile coverage**
- **Participation in culture, sport and heritage**
- **Housing affordability, sustainability and quality**
- **Housing supply including social housing**
- **Renting costs**
- **Building energy efficiency and percentage of households in fuel poverty**

# 3

## Mission 3:

# A well-connected West Yorkshire – a strong transport system

### By 2040 we will have:

- A sustainable, accessible transport system
- Reliable and affordable buses, trains, and mass transit
- A region with healthy people where active travel is the easiest choice for short journeys, car usage is reduced, and the first choice for travel is public transport.

### Actions for change

We will develop an integrated, affordable, sustainable, reliable and resilient transport system that connects all parts of our region so everyone can access the places they need to live fulfilled lives, boosting productivity, increasing innovation, and creating jobs. We will work collaboratively to ensure West Yorkshire has robust connections across the UK and the world.

We will tackle the climate emergency through the fair and inclusive decarbonisation of our transport network, delivering the right choice of transport, in the right place, at the right time.

We will make sure everyone can enjoy walking and cycling to ensure good health, and a cleaner, greener environment for future generations.

We will make our transport system easier to use and understand, so quick, joined-up journeys become second nature to us all with a London-style transport network.

We will have a new mass transit system for West Yorkshire by 2040, connecting communities with an integrated cycling, walking, bus and rail plan. This bold investment will deliver a transformational transport system to benefit generations to come.

### Progress will be demonstrated by improvements in:

- Access to employment for deprived areas
- Punctuality and reliability of bus and rail services
- Mode share moving from car use to public transport and active travel
- Satisfaction with public transport
- Satisfaction with transport information sources
- Satisfaction with affordability of public transport

# 4

## Mission 4:

# A sustainable West Yorkshire – making lives greener

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### By 2040 we will have:

- A net zero carbon economy by 2038
- Growth in the green economy in West Yorkshire

### Actions for change

We will deliver a fair and just net zero economy where people have the skills and opportunity to access new jobs in the green sector and start now to inspire and harness the creativity and commitment of the next generation to innovate solutions for the planet. Where transport is sustainable, and energy efficient homes ensure fuel poverty is abolished. Where businesses and industry operate efficiently, reducing energy consumption and boosting regional productivity.

We will create a sustainable, nature-rich and climate ready region, supporting our businesses to capitalise on the opportunities of a carbon-free economy and building resilience for the climate challenges of the future. We will celebrate, protect and invest in our natural environment, supporting biodiversity, enhancing our green spaces, parks, rivers, canals and moorland.

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### Progress will be demonstrated by improvements in:

- Reductions in greenhouse gas emissions
- Emissions intensity
- Improved access to green and blue infrastructure
- Biodiversity
- Transport and household emissions
- Electric buses and EV charging points

# 5

## Mission 5:

# A safe West Yorkshire – a region where all can flourish

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### By 2040 we will have:

- **Neighbourhood crime below the average for comparable areas.**
- **Lower rates of reoffending**
- **Raise confidence in the police and improve feelings of safety amongst women and girls in West Yorkshire**

### Actions for change

We will build a safe, just, and inclusive region that puts the safety of women and girls at its heart; ensuring all people feel safe, particularly in the night-time economy. We will work tirelessly to ensure that all people who live, work and visit West Yorkshire are safe and feel safe so our communities can thrive. We will tackle the place-based crime that damages people's everyday lives through an ongoing commitment to Neighborhood Policing and partnership working in localities.

We will raise confidence in the police and increase victims' readiness to report crime.

We will support those with complex needs, understanding the challenges in our urban and rural areas to support all victims of crime. We will intervene early to protect the most vulnerable whilst lowering crime rates across the region.

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### Progress will be demonstrated by improvements in:

- **Reduction in neighbourhood crime**
- **Reduction in knife crime**
- **Reduction in overall re-offending rate**
- **Improved feelings of safety across the community but especially among women and girls**

# Working together

## Our partnerships for change

To deliver our missions and meet our 2040 vision, collaboration is key.

The scale of our ambition cannot be achieved in isolation. In West Yorkshire we have a proud history of partnerships which we continue to harness, bringing our passion and pride along with local, national, and international partners to build success.

The strength of partnership between private sector and all parts of the public sector is something we are particularly proud of. By bringing together local and regional government, with health, the police, business and the voluntary sector, we work collaboratively to help create the right conditions for investment and jobs to flourish and for people to be healthy. Our region has much to offer, with abundant opportunities for growth, and is a test bed of

innovation and ideas. We know what we need to do and how to do it.

The scale of the opportunities for our region, and the challenges we must overcome will require additional investment and powers. Of particular importance is further developing our partnership with national government and national and international private sector partners.

West Yorkshire is a trusted partner that delivers.

Through our trusted and established partnerships, we will harness our assets to realise these opportunities for the people and the places of West Yorkshire, creating **a brighter West Yorkshire that works for all.**







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The West Yorkshire Plan has been developed and will be driven forward by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and five Local Authorities, in consultation and partnership with a range of private, public and voluntary and community sector partners. No one organisation can deliver these ambitions, it is only by the whole region working together that our vision will be realised.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 16 MARCH 2023 AT COMMITTEE ROOM 1,  
WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS**

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**Present:**

Mayor Tracy Brabin (Chair)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Council
Councillor Jane Scullion (Substitute)	Calderdale Council
Councillor Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Council
Councillor James Lewis	Leeds City Council
Councillor Rebecca Poulsen	Bradford Council
Councillor Sam Firth	Leeds City Council
Councillor Sue Holdsworth	Calderdale Council
Mark Roberts	LEP Board Representative

**In attendance:**

Ben Still	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Melanie Corcoran	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Dave Haskins	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Liz Hunter	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Dave Pearson	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Kevin Murray	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alan Reiss	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Philip Witcherley	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Caroline Allen	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Ian Parr	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**77. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jeffery, Cllr Morley, Cllr Swift and Cllr Waller.

The Mayor welcomed Cllr Sam Firth as a new member of the Combined Authority.

The Mayor reflected upon the Spring budget presented by government on 15 March 2023, and welcomed the announcement that West Yorkshire will contain one of 12 investment zones across the UK. Work will be undertaken with government and local partners to design how the investment zone will be implemented.

The Mayor welcomed the announcement of Trailblazer devolution deals which strengthen the existing devolution deals. Trailblazer deals have already been agreed with Greater Manchester and the West Midlands, and the Mayor has already and will continue to make a case for West Yorkshire to be next in line for deeper devolution.

The Mayor welcomed the extension of the domestic energy price cap for a further three months, but raised concerns that there seems to be no additional help for businesses. The confirmation of a second five-year City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement is encouraging and the Combined Authority is anticipating using this to part-fund its mass transit ambitions. The Mayor continues to seek reassurance that the slow-down of work on HS2 will not affect the overall ambition of the project or have a detrimental impact on the region.

Members welcomed the stability for local businesses, but noted businesses still need to be given confidence to make longer-term investment decisions. The increased eligibility for childcare funding will encourage more parents to re-enter the workforce and have a positive impact for businesses. It was noted that government support for LEPs will be withdrawn from April 2024, but the LEP integration work puts West Yorkshire in a strong position to maintain and grow its public and private sector partnerships.

Members raised concerns that the budget does not solve key issues for the region such as the high price of energy which has resulted in the closure of multiple leisure centres due to inability to meet costs. Local authorities cannot always fund at-risk services and the constituents are the most negatively affected when they are withdrawn.

**78. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

**79. Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public**

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

**80. Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 2 February 2023**

The Mayor requested a typing error in the minutes be corrected.

**Resolved:** That subject to amendments, the minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 2 February 2023 be approved and signed by the Chair

**81. West Yorkshire / Homes England Strategic Place Partnership**

Members received a report seeking approval for the West Yorkshire/Homes England Strategic Place Partnership (SPP) – Partnership Business Plan. The Mayor noted the partnership will help to unlock funding and support the delivery of 5,000 affordable homes for the region.

Officers noted the report was discussed and endorsed by the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee. Members emphasised the importance of consulting the local authorities throughout the process, and queried what the longer term aims of the partnership. Officers responded that, subject to approval, the first board meeting is scheduled in April 2023 with further dates to agree the next steps. The focus has been on the first year to support the initial stages, and all parties acknowledge more work will be required over the course of the partnership.

**Resolved:** The Combined Authority agreed:

That entry into the Strategic Place Partnership be agreed.

That the Strategic Place Partnership Business Plan be approved.

That the Terms of Reference for the SPP Board be approved.

## **82. Bus Reform Update**

Members received a report providing an update on the Bus Reform Assessment and to seek approval to secure the conditional availability and preliminary briefing of a suitably qualified independent audit organisation.

The Mayor noted that buses are vital to a strong economy, and West Yorkshire needs a London-style transport system to meet its ambitions. The government has extended the bus recovery grant for a further three months, but bus operators are still cutting back on services. The Combined Authority is undertaking a bus franchising assessment and is required to go through audit and consultation. , An additional Combined Authority meeting will be scheduled shortly after the local elections to discuss bus reform.

Members queried what conversations are happening are happening with operators to mitigate the planned operator cuts to services. Officers responded that the Mayor as well as the Chair and Deputy Chairs of the Transport Committee have regular meetings with operators about the issue, but as private businesses operators can make any decisions they feel necessary. A list of withdrawn services was circulated to members of the Transport Committee as soon as it was feasible.

Members queried why Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding is not yet used to restore service cut by operators. Members responded the BSIP funding is not intended to replace services, but to increase the quality of existing services.

**Resolved:** That securing the conditional availability and preliminary briefing of a suitably qualified independent audit organisation ("Auditor") be approved, so that after having prepared the assessment and should the Combined Authority wish to proceed, the Auditor may then be instructed to prepare a report in accordance with section 123D of the TA 2000.

## **83. Mass Transit Programme Update Report**

Members received a report providing a progress update for the West Yorkshire Mass Transit Programme. The Combined Authority has an initial £200 million of funding towards the programme, but more funding is required to deliver on the intended aims. Members noted the system will provide a significant boost to the regional economy and is a key reason for mayoral devolution.

Members questioned the extent of the data collection, officers responded the travel surveys are being undertaken in partnership with local authority partners, and a stratified sample of homes has been identified to best represent the population of West Yorkshire for a household travel survey element. Further details were requested, and it was agreed details would be supplied outside of the meeting.

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

#### **84. West Yorkshire Tourism**

Members received a report proposing changes to the promotion of West Yorkshire level at a regional level, and seeking the establishment of a Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) for West Yorkshire.

The Mayor expressed the importance of Tourism to West Yorkshire, contributing approximately £5 billion to the regional economy and providing employment to roughly 10% of the workforce. West Yorkshire is a major tourist destination and promotion on a regional level will increase its draw to potential visitors.

Officers noted the changes are a response to government policy relating to VisitEngland and destination management. Three tiers of destination management have been introduced with the North East as the only top tier region. West Yorkshire has been placed in the second tier, and will be accredited by VisitEngland which qualifies for funding and support. The LVEP for West Yorkshire will be led by Leeds but represented by all local authorities. Members noted there is also strong private sector report for the establishment of the LVEP.

Members expressed that the governance of the partnership will need to be finalised. Members noted the Leeds team has had success in promoting the city and a partnered approach will bring benefits to the whole region. The Mayor noted she will chair the board, and the many cultural events across West Yorkshire in this and coming years will provide many opportunities to celebrate the region.

**Resolved:** The Combined Authority agreed

That a Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) application for West Yorkshire to Visit England be supported.

That as part of this work, appropriate governance will be developed. The Mayor will play a key role in championing the tourism sector and this will be reflected in the governance.

That an independent Destination Management Plan be commissioned, utilising capacity gainshare funding already allocated to Leeds City Council.

## **85. Project Approvals**

### **Investment Priority 1: Good Jobs and Resilient Businesses**

Members introduced the Business Productivity Programme scheme, which aims to boost small and medium enterprises by providing financial and advisory support to a minimum of 283 businesses. Members noted improving productivity is key to growing the economy, and providing access to new and good jobs is a significant way to achieve this.

**Resolved:** The Combined Authority approved:

The change request for approval of £3,500,000 of UKSPF funding to replace £3,500,000 of the gainshare funding and increase the programme delivery timeframes from March 2025 to March 2026. To note UKSPF to be spent by March 2025.

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

### **Investment Priority 3: Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure**

Officers introduced the Investment Priority 3 scheme, which consists of a portfolio of programmes which will deliver resilient infrastructure in line with the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy. Where possible, extra funding will be sought to contribute to the overall cost. Officers noted the Place, Regeneration, and Housing committee has discussed the range of projects at great length, and the schemes will deliver a wide range of outcomes.

Officers noted two further schemes, the Safety of Women and Girls – Pillar 1, and Rural England Prosperity Fund are recommended to be delegated to the Chief Executive to allow for expediency of delivery due to tight timelines.

**Resolved:** The Combined Authority approved that:

The Investment Priority 3 - Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure portfolio proceeds through decision point 1 (strategic assessment) and work commences on the development of individual business cases.

An indicative approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £7,132,098. The total capital value of known projects and programmes in the IP3 portfolio is £72,044,680.

Development costs of £632,098 are approved in order to progress the individual business cases, taking the total approval to £745,833. Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report.

#### Additional Recommendations

Where scheme approval is required before 30 June 2023, the schemes outlined in paragraph 3.11 are delegated for approval to the Chief Executive, due to expediency of delivery.

Any change requests for the Capital Flood Risk Management Programme are delegated to Climate, Energy and Environment Committee.

The update on the Langthwaite Enterprise Zone Phase 1 project be noted.

#### **Investment Priority 4: Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability**

Officers introduced the Social Housing Decarbonisation – Wave 2 scheme for approval. The Wave 1 element was agreed by the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee in January 2022. The funding is the result of a bid from the government and so if approved and the bid is successful the work can begin as soon as possible. The scheme will be completed in partnership with West Yorkshire housing providers and local authority partners.

**Resolved:** The Combined Authority approved that:

The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund programme proceeds through decision point 1 (strategic assessment) and work commences on activity 3 (outline business case).

Indicative approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £15,032,090 be given. The total scheme cost is £31,967,212.

That the Combined Authority enter into the Memorandum of Understanding and Data Sharing Agreement with BEIS.

That delegated authority be granted:

- (i) To the Head of Economic Implementation to accept receipt of the funding from BEIS for the SHDF.
- (ii) To the Head of Economic Implementation and the Head of Legal and Governance Services in consultation with each



other to finalise the Memorandum of Understanding and Data Sharing Agreement with BEIS and the Funding Agreements / letter between to Combined Authority and the Housing Providers (Accent Housing Limited, Chartford Housing Limited, Manningham Housing Association Limited, Wakefield District Housing Limited, Leeds and Yorkshire Housing Association Limited, Leeds Federated Housing Association Limited, Yorkshire Housing Limited, Kirklees Council, Incommunities Limited) and all other related legal documents that may be required.

That future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report, any change requests are delegated to the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

### **Investment Priority 5: Future Transport**

Officers introduced two schemes for delivery, the Castleford Growth Corridor and the CRSTS Programme. The Castleford Growth Corridor brings two separate schemes together by including the Wheldon Road pedestrian and cycle bridge. The scheme will improve the existing road provision which is more dangerous and discourages active travel. The CRSTS Programme consists of 39 schemes across 10 packages, enabling wider access to public transport and more safety improvements to walking and cycling in line with district, regional and national strategies. Further delegation requests for a number of schemes are requested for delegation to the Transport Committee and Chief Executive to maintain delivery targets.

Members queried how quickly the delivery will take place for projects, officers responded that the timescales can vary depending on external factors, but officers are able to provide updates to relevant members outside of the meeting.

**Resolved:** The Combined Authority approved that:

#### Castleford Growth Corridor

The change request to the Castleford Growth Corridor scheme to increase the Combined Authority contribution funding to £11,519,000 and to increase the outputs as detailed in this report be approved. The total scheme value will increase from £9,491,000 to £11,740,000.

The Combined Authority enters into a variation to the existing Funding Agreement with Wakefield Council for expenditure of up to £3,497,473. Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

#### CRSTS Programme

The Combined Authority, approved that:

The change request to the CRSTS Programme to increase the approved programme development costs by £7,000,000 to £10,000,000 be approved, and delegation to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Chief Operating Officer to authorise schemes access to these development costs, in accordance with the Assurance Framework be approved.

The Combined Authority be authorised to enter into funding agreements between the Combined Authority and Districts for District led schemes for business case development for CRSTS led schemes.

Where scheme approval is required before 30 June 2023, the schemes outlined in paragraph 3.5 be delegated for approval to the Transport Committee, due to expediency of delivery.

Where scheme approval is required before 30 June 2023, the schemes outlined in paragraph 3.6 be delegated for approval to the Chief Executive, due to expediency of delivery.

## **86. Regional Investment Vehicles for Innovation Finance**

Members received a report providing an overview of Northern Gritstone Ltd, and seeking approval of, following appropriate assurance and due diligence, a £1.5m contribution from the Combined Authority towards the Northern Gritstone investment company from the Single Investment Fund.

Officers informed members that Northern Gritstone is an investment vehicle founded by the Universities of Leeds, Manchester, and Sheffield aiming to support science and technology businesses. The company has raised £215 million out of a £500 million target, and the return on investment of the funds is expected to be in excess of 20% over the next decade. Investment would help to fund university spinouts, furthering growth and employment opportunities for the region. Due diligence will be undertaken before any investment is made.

Members questioned how funding fits into the Investment Strategy. Officers responded that the strategy required proposals to address market failure, which was not evident in this case. However, the proposals was being recommended to the Combined Authority despite this, because of the clear contribution towards priorities and the potential for a financial return. The strategy is reviewed annually, and the upcoming 2023 amendments would clarify that similar situations are in line with the Investment Strategy.

Members questioned how Northern Gritstone identifies funding targets, officers answered that the company is experienced and understands which businesses are likely to develop a strong return. The company has strong existing links within West Yorkshire spanning a variety of industries. Members agreed that investment in businesses is a priority and West Yorkshire should explore innovative ways to produce positive results.

**Resolved:** That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive Officer to approve £1.5 million investment to Northern Gritstone. This delegation is requested to allow time for further due diligence and application of the Combined Authority assurance processes before the deadline for investment.

**87. UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

Members received an update regarding progress made on implementing the West Yorkshire UKSPF Local Investment Plans, including Core UKSPF, Multiply and the new Rural England Prosperity Fund.

Members noted there has been considerable work so far and expressed thanks to officers for their efforts. The Local Partnership Group last met on 6 March 2023, receiving helpful advice towards the progress included within the report. The Local Partnership group raised concerns about the timescale of delivery, but noted officers are doing as much as possible so there are no missed funding opportunities.

Officers noted the delegation of funding was already approved, but there is a deadline in early May to inform the government about how the money is spent. The government funding comes with guidelines about how it can be spent, and the Combined Authority is trying to align the spending with the Investment Strategy. The Mayor noted the needs of West Yorkshire are different to the needs of other areas of the country, and will support any dialogue with government to make a stronger case for being a part of the next Trailblazer devolution deal.

Members asked which partners have been consulted as part of the rural fund, members noted there are members on the panel who specifically engage with the network of rural stakeholders including the National Farmers' Union, the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, and the Land and Business Association among others. Members asked if local parishes are included in consultation, officers responded they are not but consultation with them can be explored.

**Resolved:**

That the progress made on implementing the West Yorkshire UKSPF Local Investment Plans be noted.

That the recommendations made by the West Yorkshire UKSPF Local Partnership Group at its meeting on 6 March 2023 be noted and approved. The recommendations made are:

- the LPG was supportive of the £972,762 Women and Girls Programme providing their feedback and advice is taken in to account as the business case is finalised.
- the LPG endorsed the design of the Calls and the scoring framework at its meeting on the 6th March 2023 including the proposed funding envelopes and key policy areas for intervention as set out above providing their feedback and advice is taken in to account as the Invitation to Bid is finalised.

- the LPG endorsed the operating model at its meeting on 6 March 2023 providing their feedback and advice is taken in to account as the full business case is finalised.

That the progress made on Pillar 1 Safety of Women and Girls strand and the delegation requested in Item 10b for the Chief Executive to authorise the scheme to proceed through the Assurance Process with full delivery costs approved for an April 2023 start be noted.

That the funding envelopes and priority areas for the three Pillar 2 Business Support open calls for projects via an invitation to bid be approved, and the Chief Executive be authorised to agree, prior to publication, the full Invitation to Bid documentation in consultation with the Mayor, the Chair of the Business, Economy and Innovation Committee and the Interim Chair of the LEP – also Chair of the UKSPF Local Partnership Group (LPG), given the launch timescales.

That the progress made on Rural England Prosperity Fund be noted, the operating model be approved, and the delegation requested in Item 10b for the Chief Executive to authorise the scheme to proceed through the Assurance Process with full delivery costs approved for an April 2023 start be noted.

## **88. Spatial Priority Areas**

Members received a report seeking endorsement to the inclusion of two additional Spatial Priority Areas (SPAs) to the existing locations agreed across West Yorkshire, and endorsement of an amendment to the boundary of one existing SPA.

Officers noted the report has been discussed by the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee, and all affected authorities have been involved in discussions as well as in any future discussions.

**Resolved:** The Combined Authority agreed:

That the content of the report be noted.

That the SPA name changes listed in Table 1 be approved.

That the additional two SPAs of North Halifax Growth Area (Calderdale) and Huddersfield Station to Stadium Enterprise Corridor (Kirklees) and the amended South Kirkby and South Elmsall Urban Extension SPA in Wakefield be approved. Subject to this approval, the content on the Combined Authority website relating to SPAs will be refreshed.

## **89. Corporate Plan 2023/24**

Members received a report seeking endorsement to the approach for developing and publishing the Corporate Plan 2023-24.

Officers noted the new corporate plan will focus more on outcomes and reflect the new organisational structure. The targets will be measurable so progress is as transparent as possible.

**Resolved:**

That the approach to the development of the Corporate Plan 2023-24 be endorsed.

That final approval of the Corporate Plan be delegated to the Mayor, LEP Chair and the Managing Director.

**90. Governance and Appointment Arrangements**

Members received a report regarding several changes to committee membership, to consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in relation to the payment of remuneration to the LEP Chair. Given the gap between meetings, the appointment of Executive Directors, the Chief Operating Officer, and Directors was agreed to be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor and following notification to Combined Authority members.

Mark Roberts left the room during the discussion of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

The Mayor noted that the input of private sector members is invaluable to the Combined Authority, and the outcome of the IRP was discussed at the previous meeting of the LEP. The Spring budget was clear that LEP funding would end by 2024. Officers noted the IRP report has been provided to members, and clarified the panel was chaired by Declan Hall and joined by Fara Butt to provide broader private sector input. The panel recognised the changes to the role of LEP Chair and so there is the potential need to review the outcome if it is required.

Members questioned if the LEP Chair being a Mayoral appointment will affect the level of scrutiny. Officers responded the LEP Chair is expected to be a member of the Combined Authority and subject to the same code of conduct as the elected members, and the three scrutiny panels will also have the same level of oversight as at present. Members agreed the need for private sector input and noted that members will make any concerns known if the LEP Chair does not deliver in their role.

Officers noted that Cllr Sam Firth has replaced Cllr Robinson a member of the Combined authority, as well as the Governance and Audit Committee. Officers noted that Cllr Peter Harrand has resigned as Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Geoff Winnard is recommended as his replacement. The Mayor expressed thanks to Cllr Harrand for his work during his tenure as Chair.

The Mayor noted that further recruitment to director posts may be made ahead of the annual meeting and so for expediency the Chief Executive should be delegated authority to make the appointments.

The Mayor announced the appointment of Simon Warburton to the post of Executive Director for Transport, and noted his experience developing transport in Greater Manchester will be crucial to the Combined Authority achieving its ambitions.

**Resolved:** The Combined Authority agreed:

That with effect from 17 February 2023, Councillor Sam Firth replaces Councillor Matthew Robinson as one of the three political balance members of the Combined Authority be noted.

That Councillor Sam Firth be appointed to the Governance and Audit Committee as the Conservative Group replacement for Councillor Matthew Robinson.

That the resignation of Councillor Peter Harrand as Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee be noted, and Councillor Geoff Winnard be appointed as his replacement.

That a representative of the Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) be appointed as a non-voting advisory representative to the Employment and Skills Committee.

That the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel at Appendix 1 and determines the level of remuneration which is expected to be paid to the LEP Chair from the start of the new municipal year be considered.

That the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Mayor, the LEP Chair as appropriate and following notification to Combined Authority members, to make future appointments to the roles of Exec Director, Chief Operating Officer and Director following the outcome of the respective recruitment processes.

## **91. Minutes for Information**

**Resolved:** That the minutes and notes of the Combined Authority's committees and panels be noted.