

ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MEETING TO BE HELD AT 10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER
2022
IN CONFERENCE ROOM 1/2, WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50
WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS, LS1 2DE**

A G E N D A

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To note apologies and confirm **the quorum of 11 members is met.**

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

3. POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

1. To highlight Appendix 2 to Agenda Item 7c which officers have identified as containing exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and where officers consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons outlined in the report.

2. To consider whether or not to accept the officers' recommendation in respect of the above information.

2. If the recommendation is accepted, to formally pass the following resolution:-

RESOLVED – That in accordance with paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Appendix 2 to Agenda Item 7c on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there

would be disclosure to them of exempt information and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

- 4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 9 MARCH 2022**
(Pages 1 - 6)
- 5. NOTES OF THE INQUORATE MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2022**
(Pages 7 - 8)
- 6. CHAIR'S COMMENTS AND UPDATE**
- 7. SKILLS, LABOUR MARKET AND ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET**
 - (a) LABOUR MARKET EVIDENCE**
(Pages 9 - 38)
 - (b) CURRENT PROGRAMMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**
(Pages 39 - 44)
 - (c) ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET**
(Pages 45 - 62)
 - (d) FUTURE EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS PROGRAMMES**
(Pages 63 - 68)
- 8. FOR INFORMATION - ECONOMIC UPDATE**
(Pages 69 - 74)
- 9. ECONOMY SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**
(Pages 75 - 96)
- 10. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - 18 JANUARY 2023**

Signed:



**Managing Director
West Yorkshire Combined Authority**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ECONOMY SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 2022 IN COMMITTEE
ROOM 1, WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON STREET,
LEEDS, LS1 2DE**

Present:

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

In attendance:

Brian Archer	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Khaled Berroum	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Mayor Tracy Brabin (Minute 8 only)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Judith Furlonger (Minute 8)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alison Gillespie (Minute 8)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Thomas Purvis	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Hannah Scales	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Phil Witcherley (Minute 8)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors

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

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

3. Possible exclusion of the press and public

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

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2021

Resolved: That the notes of the inquorate meeting held on 17 November 2021 be noted and entered as public record of what was discussed.

5. Notes of the informal meeting held on 19 January 2022

Members asked that the notes capture their view that social housing was an important element in achieving more affordable housing.

Resolved: That the notes of the informal meeting held on 19 January 2022 be noted and entered as public record of what was discussed, pending the above amendment.

6. Chair's update and comments

The Committee received a verbal update from the Chair. Members noted the initial proposed changes to the Committee structure and plans going forward to transfer place/environment work from the Economy Scrutiny Committee remit to Transport Scrutiny Committee, an update to follow. The Committee also heard that a wrap-up session was due to be arranged for the end of the year to discuss lessons learned, evaluate performance and forward plan for the coming year.

Considering the economic impact of the Ukraine crisis and the sanctions on Russia and freezing of assets, the Chair invited the Director of Economic Services to give a brief update. Key points from the update included:

- The challenge of significant inflationary pressures due to inflation which was 5.5% two weeks prior to the meeting and was expected to rise to 7%. An example of the impact was the cost of gas which was 20p per therm last year compared to the current price, £2.24 per therm.
- According to statistics there was 158 companies in West Yorkshire currently exporting to Russia. Members heard that a large number of businesses had grown on the back of Russian brands, and it would have an impact on some companies more than others.
- Food production - around 25% of global wheat production was from Russia and Ukraine.
- Cyber security – the crisis had significantly increased the risk of cyber-attacks and hacking, with one local firm saying they were not going public with the help they were giving Ukraine with fear of cyber-attacks.
- The long-term impact of stability was evident, investors had been moving out of public investments to gold and currency. There were increased regulatory burdens expected also.
- In-work Universal Credit claims had increased while business liquidations had stabilised in the new year.

Resolved: That the Chair's verbal update and the Director's update on economic impact be noted.

7. Corporate Scrutiny Work Programme 2021/22

The Committee considered the Work programme for 2021/22. The Annual Report was due to be produced and short wrap-up sessions arranged for each Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved: That the report and comments be noted.

8. Mayor's Question Time – Tracy Brabin

The Chair thanked the Mayor Tracy Brabin for attending Economy Scrutiny to answer the Committee's questions and outlined the format of the Mayor's Question Time. The session would be split into pre-agreed topic areas and members would be able to ask any questions under those topic areas, and any follow ups.

The topic areas were:

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

Following questions and supplementary questions, the following was reported to the committee:

1. Partnerships and Delivery

- **Quality of partnerships:** the Mayor felt that the Local Authorities were aligned and working well together, they all had similar challenges and agreed on solutions.
- **Delivery capacity:** Gainshare was being used to support each member authority in developing a pipeline of projects ready for bidding in new government funding announcements. The Mayor felt government didn't understand delivery capacity issues facing local government and was too demanding in the number of funding announcements and the limited time to deadlines requiring resources to be spent on bidding.
- **York:** West Yorkshire worked with York on various joint schemes, not just in transport, but also in business. Further devolution to York was supported as it would also benefit West Yorkshire.
- **Leeds-centricity & West Yorkshire levelling up:** Members had the perception of Leeds centricity. Other cities and towns felt side-lined, particularly on office space. Wakefield Council was bidding for the new Rail HQ, but it was bidding against larger areas/authorities such as Doncaster, Preston and York.

2. Jobs and skills

- **Labour shortages:** Members heard of the use of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) budget to respond to reactive labour needs such as the HGV driver training during the recent shortage.
- **Green jobs:** There was demand for green jobs in the development of EV charging infrastructure and EV mechanics, retrofitting homes opportunities and the use of AEB funding to help. Members wished to know the definition of a 'green job'; to ensure it was not the marketing industry 'greenwashing' campaigns, but direct jobs for example as EV related workers and electric boiler fitters.
- **Parent workers:** The importance of support for parent workers, particularly women.
- **Over 50s:** The CA wanted to support people to reskill as their careers progressed. Older workers had been positively targeted through the employment Hub to help people get back into work.
- **University engagement:** The Mayor had regular meetings with Vice Chancellors encouraging positive engagement. The Mayor emphasised the importance of careers advice, working with businesses and helping young people make important choices.

3. Business

- **Support for small businesses:** historically economic development policy focussed on businesses with growth potential. There were various versatile initiatives to support small/medium sized businesses including integral local, community businesses such as 'corner shops' which may not be looking to grow.
- **Cost of living:** the cost-of-living crisis was affecting business costs/expenses and there were schemes in place to advise/fund businesses helping them in reducing energy costs through greater efficiency.
- **Grants vs advice;** Members felt that on occasion, businesses needed invaluable advice rather than money – which the CA did also provide in its services.
- **Late payments:** Businesses and in particular small businesses struggled with late/backdated payments which was a recognised issue. Members heard this problem was addressed as part of the 'Fair Work Charter' and other initiatives.
- **Inclusive growth:** Members felt there was a lack of clarity around the definition of 'inclusive growth' and whether the CA sought to make only the new growth element inclusive or the entire existing economy inclusive. Members heard that the goal was to grow the economy further and in an inclusive way that shared the benefits of growth. Some work such as the 'Fair Work Charter' sought to make the existing economy fairer and more inclusive.
- **Leeds Bradford Airport (LBA):** LBA was considered an example of the tension and conflict between economic growth and the climate emergency action. Expanding the airport would lead to increased carbon emissions but the Mayor felt that the region couldn't remain competitive with other regions without its own modern airport.

4. Housing

- **House production rate:** The rate of housing development hadn't increased in 10 years, which had contributed to the rising house prices.
- **MCA housing powers:** Members understood that the CA/Mayor can't build houses, but the CA could help Local Authorities deal with issues such as land-banking through Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) or develop less viable land through devolved funding.
- **Viability of land:** The majority of land especially in districts such as Calderdale was harder to develop due to the area's terrain. The Brownfield Fund was designed to help councils develop such difficult land, that requires a lot more funding to make viable.
- **Social/council housing:** 5000 'affordable' homes target did not include a specific proportion as social housing. Members of the public often viewed affordable housing as social housing for rent. Members thought the affordable housing definitions were too subjective – what was affordable for one, may not be affordable for another.
- **Developers:** Members discussed that far too often developers agreed to develop affordable housing, then under technicalities renege on their agreements by citing lack of profitability due to 'unforeseen' viability costs after the fact. Members heard that an area in Horsforth gave up greenbelt land for a development of affordable housing and did not get any in the end. Members discussed the possibility of Mayoral soft power being utilised by identifying good and bad developers who adhere to agreements.
- **'Wellness' and 'place':** Price was not the only factor for good housing; also access and connectivity to amenities such as food and transport were equally as desirable. It was not just about houses, it was also about the area and place, an example being those fortunate to have garden space during the pandemic compared to people who didn't.

5. Culture

- **Networking and inclusivity:** Creative industries are centred around networking, contacts and relationship building. This could put people from various social classes at a disadvantage. It was suggested that peer networking opportunities should be part of the Creative Catalyst and Channel 4 programmes.
- **Culture and wider regeneration:** This could create a wide range of jobs in acting, producing, writing, digital, marketing, building, logistics and hospitality to contribute to wider economic growth.

Resolved: That the Mayor be thanked for attending and the Committee's feedback and conclusions be considered further.

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Notes of **Inquorate** Economy Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2022

Item 1 – Welcome and apologies

Attendees (10/11): Aneela Ahmed, Bob Felstead, Helen Brundell, Gwen Lowe, Richard Smith (Chair), Tyler Hawkins, Gohar Almass, Colin Campbell, Isabel Owen, Tony Wallis.

Apologies (5): Ian Sanders, Sam Firth, Audrey Smith, Zafar Iqbal, Andrew Hollyer.

Officers: Patrick Bowes, Liz Hunter, Hannah Scales, Phil Witcherley.

Skipped items 2 and 3 as the meeting was inquorate.

Item 4 – Scrutiny and governance arrangements

Members received an outline of scrutiny standing orders and other governance arrangements agreed at the Combined Authority Annual Meeting in June 2022. The main change was a reshuffle of committee remits to ensure that Transport Scrutiny covers more place and environment issues more pertinent to transport infrastructure and network.

Item 5 – Scrutiny and governance arrangements

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2022 will be brought forward to the next quorate committee meeting to be formally agreed – alongside informal notes of this meeting so that the discussion is a part of the public record.

Item 6 – Chairs comments and announcements

The Chair welcomed new members, introduced himself and reiterated that Scrutiny is non-political and non-partisan and its objective is to provide constructive and objective challenge to the mayor and authority.

Item 7 – Economy functions and priorities overview

Members received an update on the latest economic and business intelligence within West Yorkshire, focussing primarily on the issues relating to the cost-of-living crisis across the economy, and the upcoming increase in energy prices.

Questions and discussion centred around:

Businesses and rising costs:

- Enquires to the CA's "Rebis Scheme" have tripled in recent months.
- A proposal from the government to cap energy prices for businesses is aimed to help with the current energy price crisis.
- The Manufacturing industry is disproportionately affected by the energy cost rise and the hospitality industry is not covered by government support, so the CA is looking at how it can support them further through available funding.

- The importance of advertising and the CA's ability to successfully direct businesses to relevant schemes and assistance was emphasised as being vital.
- All the CA's thematic decision-making committees have private sector members so that their views and needs can be considered as part of all decision making and policy development.

Recruitment issues, potential 'skilled' labour shortage and education:

- 1 million skilled workers over 50 had left the labour market since the pandemic. The O&S statistics are quantitative rather than qualitative, so it is possible to know *who* but not *why* they left the job market.
- Adult Education Budget (AEB) was devolved to the CA and the committee will look at it at its next meeting in November.
- It was important to focus on longer-term solutions to recruitment and the skilled labour shortage alongside future economic resilience, based on possible scenarios.
- The CA is developing a long-term strategy with businesses, authorities, and academics that scrutiny would be welcome to look at.
- A follow-up with regards to 'Skills Connect' and the Apprenticeship Levy was requested on the work programme.
- The CA works closely with different local authorities on skills, currently looking at digital skills.
- West Yorkshire did not have the national average qualification figures and it would be interesting to know how attainment differed across the WY districts.

Cost-of-Living Crisis and influencing the government:

- Energy standing charges affect households and businesses alike and the charges are the highest rate in West Yorkshire. The Mayor has requested the CA looks at this and is due to make discuss it with Ofgem.
- The CA doesn't have the resources the government has, but the CA is preparing a report on the cost-of-living crisis and what it can do to help and is making representations to Government about our region specifically, particularly with regards to region-specific issues like the manufacturing sector.
- Influence at Westminster is important and letters had been sent to build relationships new ministers.
- The M10 (the ten Metro Mayors) chaired by Tracy Brabin remains a strong united voice for devolved areas and CAs across England.

Item 8 – Economy Scrutiny Work Programme discussion

Members noted the appended work programme which was the result of workshops and discussions over the summer period and noted that the agenda for January has been left blank and to be confirmed at the November meeting due to the fast-changing nature of the current economic situation and activity.

Next meeting date – 16 November 2022



Report to:	Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	16 November 2022
Subject:	Labour Market Analysis

Director:	Alan Reiss, Director of Strategy, Communications and Policing
Author:	Peter Glover, Economic Evidence Manager

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. To provide an overview of key labour market issues and context to support discussions by Scrutiny Committee.

2. Information

National context

- 2.1. It is useful to draw on the national labour market context because data at this level is timelier and more detailed, providing insights that are likely to be applicable in West Yorkshire setting that cannot be drawn directly from the local data. The following analysis relates to the UK and is mostly based on the latest analysis of the Labour Force Survey for the quarter June to August 2022. The impact of the cost-of-living crisis is not clearly reflected in labour market indicators at the current time. The labour market remains extremely tight, with high vacancies, low unemployment and rising wages.
- 2.2. Employment has still not recovered to its pre-pandemic position at UK-level. The proportion of working age people who are in employment fell slightly in the latest quarter to 75.5%, and it still remains a percentage point below the pre-pandemic rate, which is 320,000 lower in absolute terms. Drilling down into the employment situation, self-employment was hard hit during the pandemic but is now recovering. The number of self-employed people grew by 1% on the quarter but is still 15% lower than before the health crisis
- 2.3. The official rate of unemployment, at 3.5%, is 0.5 percentage points below the pre-pandemic rate and is at its lowest point since 1974. There are 1.2m vacancies in the labour market – slightly down from the peak seen earlier in 2022 – but still near all-time record levels. Public sector vacancies are still growing. The ratio of unemployed people to vacancies is at a record low of 0.9, thanks to the fall in the number of unemployed people. There are now fewer unemployed people than there are vacancies – clearly signifying that there are not enough people to fill the jobs that are available.
- 2.4. Redundancies remain at low levels, with a current redundancy rate (per 1,000 employees) of 2.4. Although the rate increased by 0.5 in June-August 2022, compared

with the previous quarter, it remains 1.5 below the period immediately preceding the pandemic. At the height of the pandemic the redundancy rate peaked at around 15 redundancies per 1,000 employees.

- 2.5. The tight labour market is reflected in strong growth in pay. There was a year on year increase in average pay of 6% in the latest quarter. This is driven by growth in private sector pay – average pay in the public sector increased by only 2% in the same period. But average pay growth of 6% in nominal terms corresponds to a real terms fall of more than 2% when inflation is factored in.
- 2.6. One of key issues arising from pandemic is people leaving the labour force. Economic inactivity among people of working age increased by 0.6 points to 21.7% in June to August compared with the previous quarter. This is 1.4 points higher than pre-pandemic and the biggest quarterly increase since records began in 1971. In spite of, low current unemployment, the number of people who are workless – unemployed or inactive – is ½ m higher than pre-pandemic.
- 2.7. Three quarters of the rise inactivity is due to fewer older people in work plus a record rise in people who are inactive due to long-term health conditions. Rates of chronic illness shot up during the pandemic and continue to climb, with millions of people suffering multiple conditions. Mental health and cardio-vascular conditions are among the big issues. It seems likely that labour supply is being constrained by people waiting for treatment; poorer health post pandemic; long-covid; and sub-optimal employer practice in relation to health conditions of staff.

Local indicators

- 2.8. The more limited data available for West Yorkshire paints a similar picture to the national level, in the sense that the cost-of-living crisis is not yet clearly reflected in movements in business and labour market indicators.
- 2.9. Business liquidations in West Yorkshire (see figure 1 in appendix) have followed similar patterns to those at the national level. A concerning trend, however, is that liquidations in West Yorkshire have settled at a higher level than in England over the past year. Across both England and West Yorkshire, freight transport and management consultancy businesses saw the greatest levels of liquidations over the last two years.
- 2.10. Figures from HMRC real time employee count give a timely picture of employment trends at local level, although they do not include people in self-employment (see figure 2 in appendix). The number of payrolled employees in West Yorkshire increased by around 2,900 (0.3%) between August and September 2022, slightly above the national growth rate. The employee count is now 30,000 (3%) above pre-pandemic levels (Feb 2020); this is similar to the national position.
- 2.11. The claimant count is a key labour market measure that is available to us at local level. It is a count of people who claim out of work benefits, whether Universal Credit or Jobseekers Alliance. The count had seen steady decline from early 2021 onwards but that has now stalled with a fairly flat position between June and September 2022 (see figure 3 of appendix). The count remains 23% (13,100) higher than its pre-pandemic level (February 2020). West Yorkshire's claimant rate of 4.7% (6.7% in Bradford) is above the national average of 3.8%.
- 2.12. Similar to the overall West Yorkshire position the claimant count has remained virtually static in the last few months in all five local authorities (see figure 4). Recovery has been slower in Bradford and Leeds. Bradford's claimant count is still 31% higher than pre-pandemic and it is 28% higher in Leeds.
- 2.13. We've seen from the official national data on vacancies that recruitment activity remains high. This picture is supported by the online job postings data that we rely on for a local picture of vacancies. West Yorkshire's monthly count of online job postings fell during

August and September 2022 but the level of postings remains very high in historic terms (see figure 5 of appendix). There were 4,600 new postings recorded in September 2022, 27% higher than the level for September 2021 and well above pre-pandemic levels. It is not clear how sustainable this high demand is likely to be in view of the increased cost pressures for business that are building and the decline in consumer confidence.

- 2.14. The recruitment picture is variable at local authority level in some respects (see figure 6). The count of job postings in Leeds fell by around a third between January and September of this year, whereas other local authorities have grown during this same period (e.g. Bradford 64% higher). However, all local authorities saw a decline between August and September.
- 2.15. All of the main occupational groups retained relatively high levels of job postings in September (see figure 7 of the appendix). The number of postings increased in Information Technology and Education and Training in September compared with the previous month, although the majority of occupations saw reductions of varying sizes, with Finance and Hospitality, food and tourism seeing the biggest reductions in percentage terms. The data does not provide conclusive evidence that the cost of living crisis is impacting on recruitment levels in any occupation at this stage.
- 2.16. Comparing the cost-of-living crisis period (April to September 2022) with equivalent periods in previous years gives some insight into the occupations seeing the greatest increase in recruitment demand (see figure 8). Hospitality, food and tourism and Engineering have seen the strongest percentage growth compared with 2021. However, Information technology, which also experienced strong growth in the last year, has seen the biggest growth compared with the pre-pandemic period (April to September 2019).

NEETs

- 2.17. Young people who become NEET (not in education, employment or training) face an increased likelihood of unemployment, low wages, or low-quality work later on in life. Being NEET can also have an impact on involvement in crime, as well as a detrimental effect on physical and mental health, particularly when time spent NEET is at a younger age or lasts for longer. Local authorities have a duty to track young people's activity to identify those not participating and support them to do so.
- 2.18. Based on the latest published figures, there was an average of 3,100 young people aged 16 and 17 who were NEET, or whose status was not known in West Yorkshire during the months of December 2021 to February 2022. This equates to around 5.5% of all 16- and 17-year-olds known to their respective local authorities, which is slightly above the England average of 4.7% (see figure 9).
- 2.19. The prevalence of NEETs varies across West Yorkshire local authorities, with some below the national average and some well above. Around 3% to 4% of 16- and 17-year-olds in each of Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield are NEET or not known, with the proportion increasing to around 6% in Bradford. The proportion is highest in Leeds at nearly 8%.
- 2.20. The number and proportion of young people NEET and not known in West Yorkshire fell in 2021/22, following an increase in the previous year. The number decreased by 120 or 4%, whilst the proportion of the cohort fell by a marginal 0.4 percentage points, from 6.0% to 5.5% (figures appear inconsistent due to rounding). Three out of five local authorities shared in the reduction, including an 18% fall in the number in Kirklees, a fall of 9% in Bradford and a small reduction of 2% in Calderdale. Leeds saw a 4% increase, whilst Wakefield remained static. Nationally, there was a bigger fall in the number of young people NEET and not known in 2021/22, of 12%.

- 2.21. Females in West Yorkshire are less likely than males to become NEET (or activity not known) at age 16 and 17 (the ages at which local authorities have a statutory duty to track and support young people). Five per cent of females fall into this category compared with 7% of males. Nonetheless, almost 40% of all NEETs are female, around 1,200 young women in absolute terms. The prevalence of NEET females in West Yorkshire is similar to the national average but this disguises important variations at local authority level, ranging from a female NEET / not known rate of 7% in Leeds to rates of less than 3% in Calderdale and Kirklees. Historically more women than men have been NEET but over time this gender gap has disappeared due to a decrease in the number of young women who are inactive because they are looking after their family or their home. Seventy-three per cent of teenage mothers in West Yorkshire are recorded as NEET.
- 2.22. Young people from the Mixed Race ethnic group are most likely to have NEET or not known status during year 12/13, at just under 8% of this cohort in West Yorkshire, according to the latest figures available. Around 7% of young people from the White group are NEET / not known – the second highest prevalence. Less than 4% each of Asian / Asian British and Black / Black British cohorts are affected. This broad pattern is similar to the national average, although the specific proportions are lower, reflecting the lower overall NEET / not known prevalence at national level. This pattern is broadly consistent across local authorities.
- 2.23. Young people in receipt of SEN Support or classified as having Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (and have an education, health and care plan) - are each twice as likely as the average to be NEET or have not known status. More than 10% of each of these cohorts is affected compared with around 5% of the overall cohort.
- 2.24. Young people with mental health needs have a very high likelihood of being NEET. This includes people who suffer with depression, anxiety, a phobia and panic attacks. Across West Yorkshire around a fifth of the year 12 /13 cohort with mental health needs were recorded as NEET or not known in 2021/22.

Student destinations

- 2.25. The most recent Key Stage 4 destination measures use administrative data to follow pupils who were at the end of key stage 4 study (GCSE and equivalent qualifications) in 2018/19 and reports their destinations in the following academic year (2019/20). To be counted in a destination, young people have to have sustained participation for a 6-month period in the destination year.
- 2.26. The total proportion of pupils entering a sustained education, apprenticeship or employment destination following Key Stage 4 is slightly lower in West Yorkshire than nationally – at 92% versus 94%. At local authority level the proportions entering a sustained destination are similar: ranging from 91% in Bradford to 94% in Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield. The proportion of pupils entering a sustained destination locally has held at a broadly stable level since 2013/14.
- 2.27. The vast majority (87%) of local pupils entered a sustained education destination following KS4 in West Yorkshire in 2020/21, equal to the national average of 87%. All five local authorities registered a similar proportion to the West Yorkshire average. The proportion of the cohort entering an education destination increased during the pandemic, from 85% in 2018/19 to 86% in 2019/20 and to 87% in 2020/21.
- 2.28. There were pronounced changes within the broad education sector (see figure 10 of the appendix). The proportion of the cohort studying at a further education college fell from 36% to 34% between 2019/20 and 2020/21, whilst the proportions studying at a school sixth form and sixth form college both increased in this period (30% to 32% and 18% to 21% respectively).

- 2.29. The proportions of pupils entering an apprenticeship or employment are both relatively small. Only 3% joined an apprenticeship in 2020/21, down from 5% in 2018/19, whilst 3% were employed – a proportion that has remained unchanged in recent years.
- 2.30. Similar destination data are available for young people in the academic year after completing 16 to 18 studies (finishing year 13, usually aged 18). Overall, 78% of local students from state-funded mainstream schools and colleges entered a sustained education, apprenticeship or employment destination in 2020/21, similar to the national average of 79%.
- 2.31. Fifty-four per cent of West Yorkshire students went into a sustained education destination (national average 52%), a significant increase on the previous year when the figure was 49%. The 2020/21 figure includes 37% who went into higher education and 14% into further education. The entry rate into HE was above the national average of 36% as was the proportion entering FE (national average of 13%).
- 2.32. Seven per cent of local students entered an apprenticeship in 2020/21, slightly higher than the national average of 6% but three percentage points lower than in the previous year. At local authority level, students were more than twice as likely to go on to an apprenticeship in Calderdale (11%) as in Bradford (5%) but there were falls in the apprenticeship entry rate across all local authorities.
- 2.33. The proportion of students going into employment in West Yorkshire was lower than the national average, at 16%, compared with an England figure of 20%. West Yorkshire's employment entry rate was 4 points lower than in the previous year, whilst the national average rate fell by 5 points. The proportion going into employment varied at local authority level from 11% in Bradford to 22% in Wakefield. All local authorities experienced a fall in the proportion of students going into employment in 2020/21.
- 2.34. Students aged 16-18 studying a level 3 qualification were more likely to go into a sustained destination of some kind (86% of the cohort), compared with those studying a level 2 (69%) and those pursuing "other"¹ qualifications (55%). There is a concern that those pursuing level 2 and other qualifications at KS5 may become NEET (not in education, employment or training).
- 2.35. Students completing a level 3 qualification were more likely to go into a sustained education destination (principally HE) as compared with those who undertook a level 2 or other qualification. Conversely, the latter group were more likely to enter an apprenticeship or employment than those studying at level 3. However, the proportion of level 3 students entering employment was still significant at 15%.

Apprenticeships

- 2.36. The take-up of apprenticeships in West Yorkshire is relatively strong. With 14,528 apprenticeship starts during the 2020/21 academic year, there were around 13.7 apprenticeship starts per 1,000 people in employment, somewhat above the national average of 12.3.
- 2.37. As noted above, the entry rate into apprenticeships for young people is higher in West Yorkshire than nationally after both Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. However, the number of apprenticeship starts in West Yorkshire has fallen significantly as a result of COVID-19 and this follows previous reductions linked to the recent apprenticeship policy reforms. Compared with 2018/19 (pre-pandemic), total starts were 23% lower in 2020/21 in the region (see figure 12 of the appendix) and 18% lower nationally. There has been a particularly sharp fall in intermediate apprenticeships, which declined by 43% compared with 2018/19.

¹ This includes qualifications at level 1 or entry level, or qualifications that had no assigned level. These include lower-level vocational qualifications and essential and functional skills qualifications.

2.38. Higher apprenticeships have grown rapidly in West Yorkshire and across the country and form an increasingly important route into higher skilled employment in occupations like accountancy and nursing. Thirty per cent of apprenticeship starts in West Yorkshire are for higher apprentices, similar to the national average of 31% and broadly in line with the comparator MCAs.

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

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

Impact of cost of living crisis on FE

2.40. FE colleges face a range of significant challenges arising out of the cost of living crisis, according to the Association of Colleges:

- Energy costs alone are increasing from about 2% of college income pre-Covid to around 6%, and potentially more next year. The non-domestic energy relief scheme helps some colleges but only for 6 months and institutions face a cliff edge when support potentially comes to an end.
- Around two thirds of college spend is on staff and the pressure on pay is enormous due to rising energy costs and wider inflation. This means recruiting new people and retaining staff becomes a central challenge, with colleges now reporting that they cannot meet demand in key subjects such as construction, engineering, health and digital.
- Colleges have to find extra funds in-year to cope with inflation and energy costs. Many are considering extraordinary solutions – from lowering the thermostat to 19 degrees to closing buildings, reducing opening hours, and even supplying blankets for classrooms.
- Anecdotal evidence shows that young people are taking full-time jobs rather than staying in learning because they need to supplement the household income. College bursary funds are deemed to be wholly inadequate in the face of the growing finance challenge facing students in terms of travel, food and other costs.
- Colleges are requesting support from government for capital investment in energy efficient buildings and green energy and for reimbursement of VAT (worth an estimated £200m to the college sector) to help plug the shortfall on staff pay. They are also calling for government to uprate funding rates for college provision in line with inflation.

2.41. The challenges of the cost-of-living crisis are compounded by the rapid increase in 16- and 17-year-olds resulting from a population boom moving through the education system. The number of 16 and 17-year olds increased by 9% between 2019 and 2022 (+5,000) and is projected to grow by a further 5% (+2,600) between 2022 and 2024. This means that schools and colleges will have to manage their budgets to educate a far larger number of students.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1. The Combined Authority has commissioned a study to look at the employment and skills needs arising out of the green economy. The final report from this study will be published shortly.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1. There are wide ranging inclusive growth implications from the employment and skills agenda. For example, the average attainment of disadvantaged young people is lower than for non-disadvantaged young people and members of this group are less likely to enter some destinations, such as apprenticeships and higher education, than their non-disadvantaged peers. This is important because there is a clear correlation between levels of skills and attainment and the likelihood of being in employment / achieving a decent level of pay. Ensuring that everyone has access to opportunities to develop their skills is therefore central to the inclusive growth agenda and this is particularly challenging during the current cost-of-living crisis.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1. There are significant employment rate gaps for key population groups, including people from some ethnic minority groups and disabled people, as well as females and older people. These groups also face pay gaps to varying extents. However, some of these groups are relatively well qualified / skilled – for example females are better qualified on average than men and some ethnic groups are better qualified than the White group. This shows that support / interventions in addition skills development are required to improve the labour market position of some equalities groups.

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 Committee notes the report and provides any comment.

11. Background Documents

None.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Labour market indicators

Appendix 1: Labour market indicators

17

Economic Scrutiny Committee, October 2022

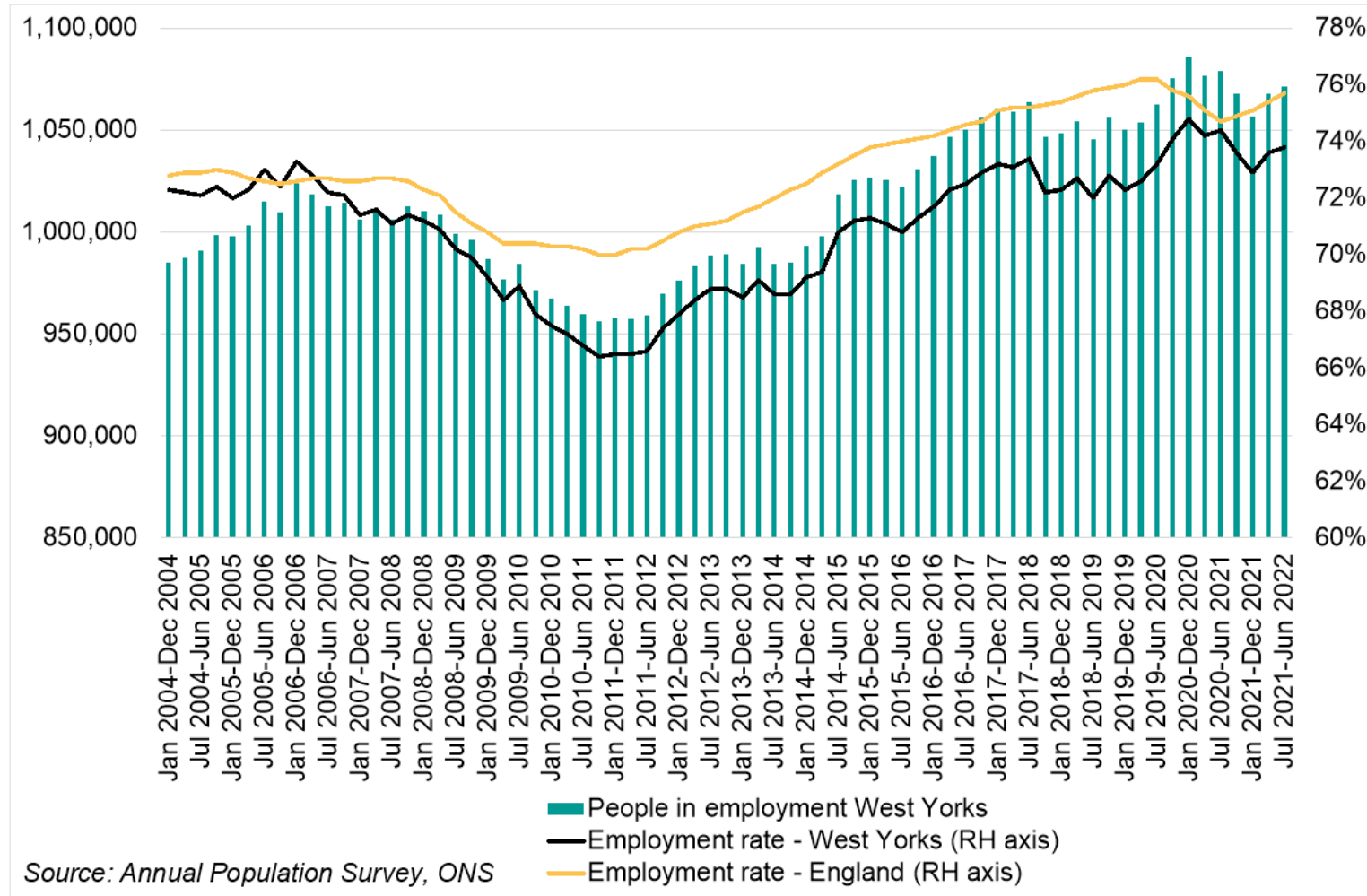
Introduction

- The following slides provide an overview of West Yorkshire's performance and progress against the headline indicators for State of the Region
- A subset of indicators has been presented, reflecting those most directly relevant to the Employment and Skills agenda.
- For some indicators there has been no change in the available data but the latest figures are contained in the pack for consistency.
- The pack also contains an update based on more timely labour market indicators, including payrolled employees, claimant count and vacancies (online job postings).

State of the Region indicators

The latest figures point to a modest recovery in West Yorkshire's employment level and rate

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



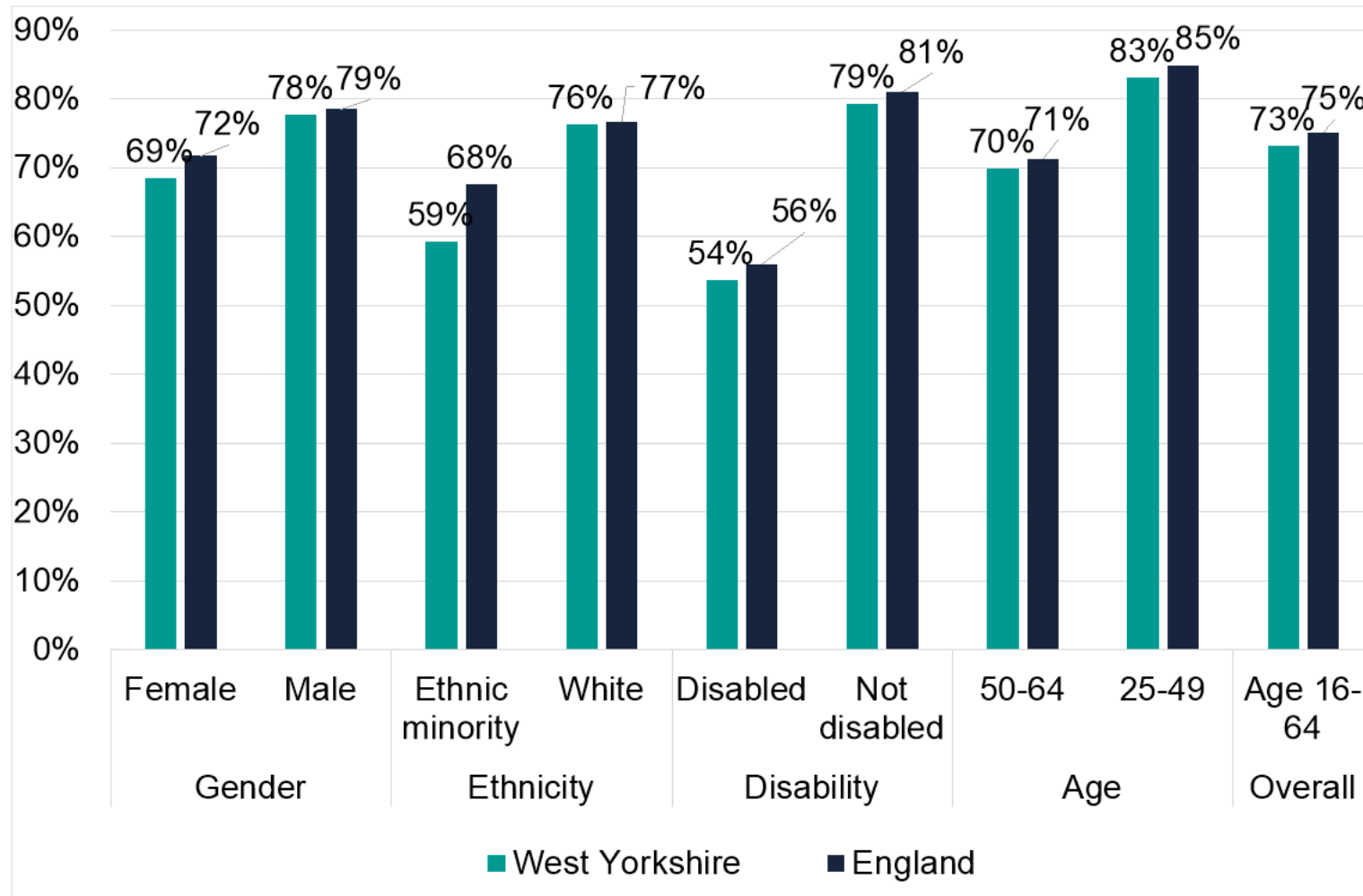
Driving economic growth and innovation to enable good jobs

20

Source: Annual Population Survey, ONS

Some groups face substantial employment rate gaps

Figure: Employment rate by group



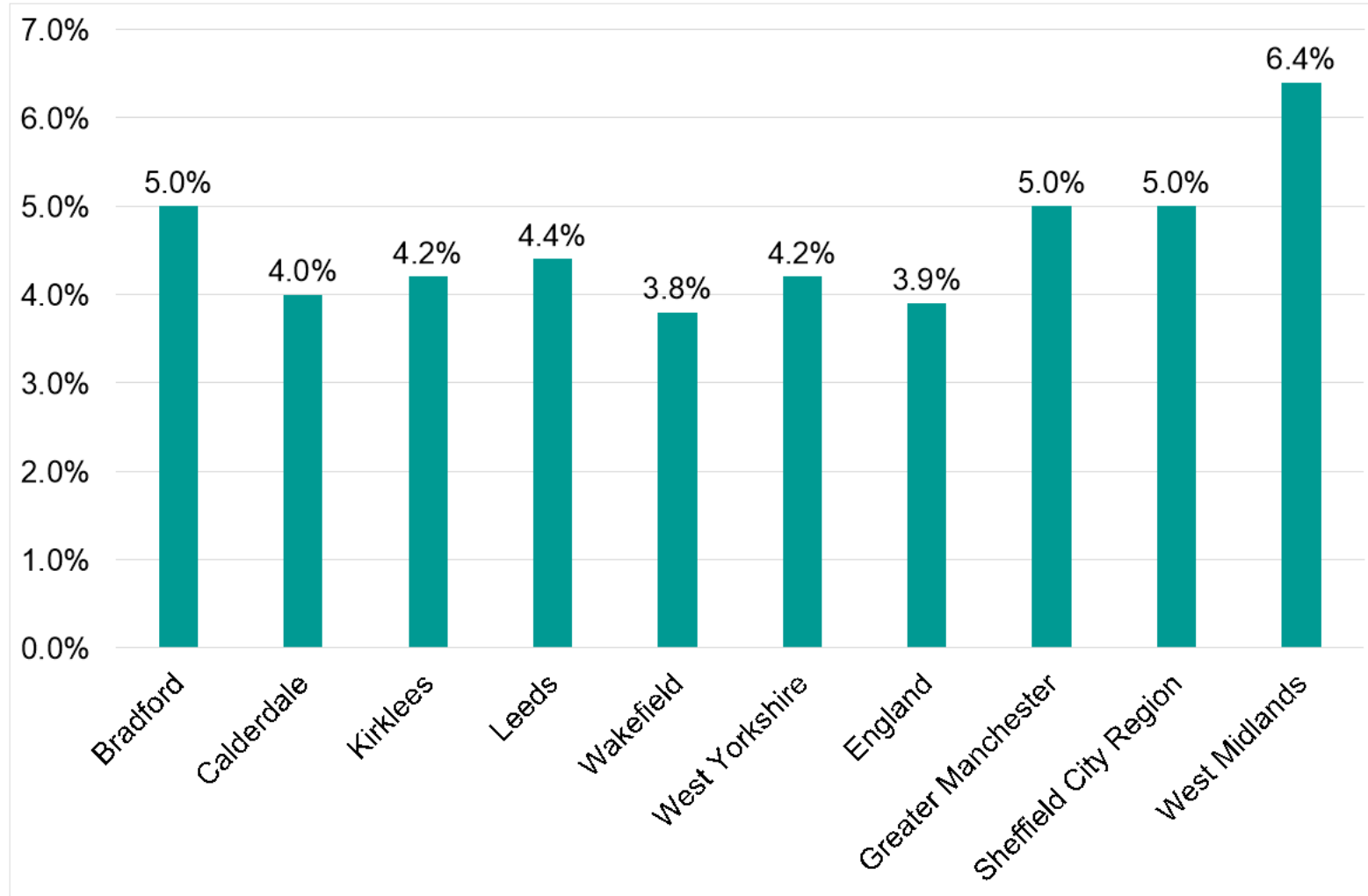
Enabling a diverse, skilled workforce and accessible learning for all

21

Source: Annual Population Survey

West Yorkshire's unemployment rate remains similar to the national average but below comparator areas

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



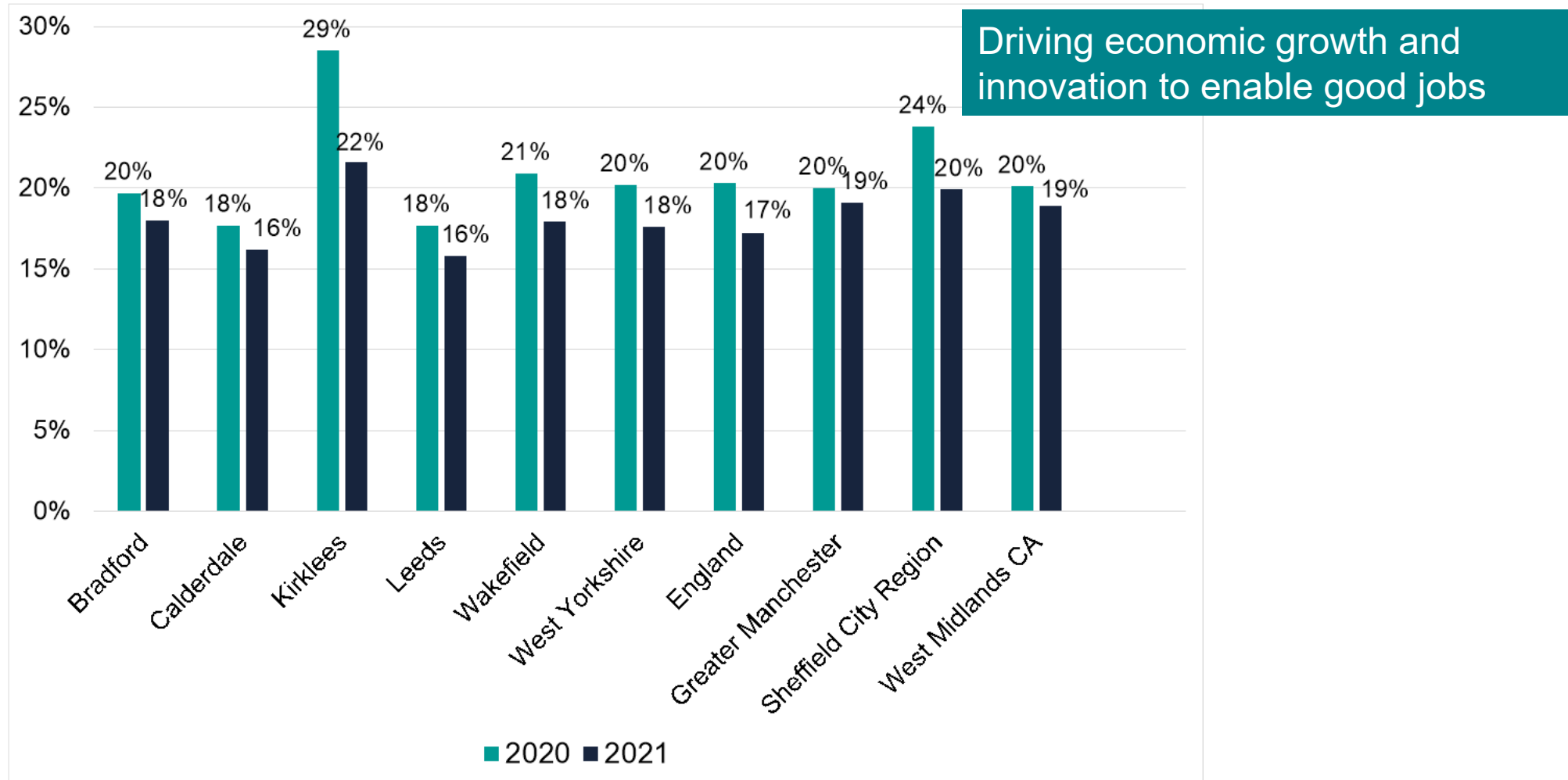
Enabling a diverse, skilled workforce and accessible learning for all

22

Source: Annual Population Survey, July 2021 to June 2022

The % of jobs paying below Real Living Wage has been falling

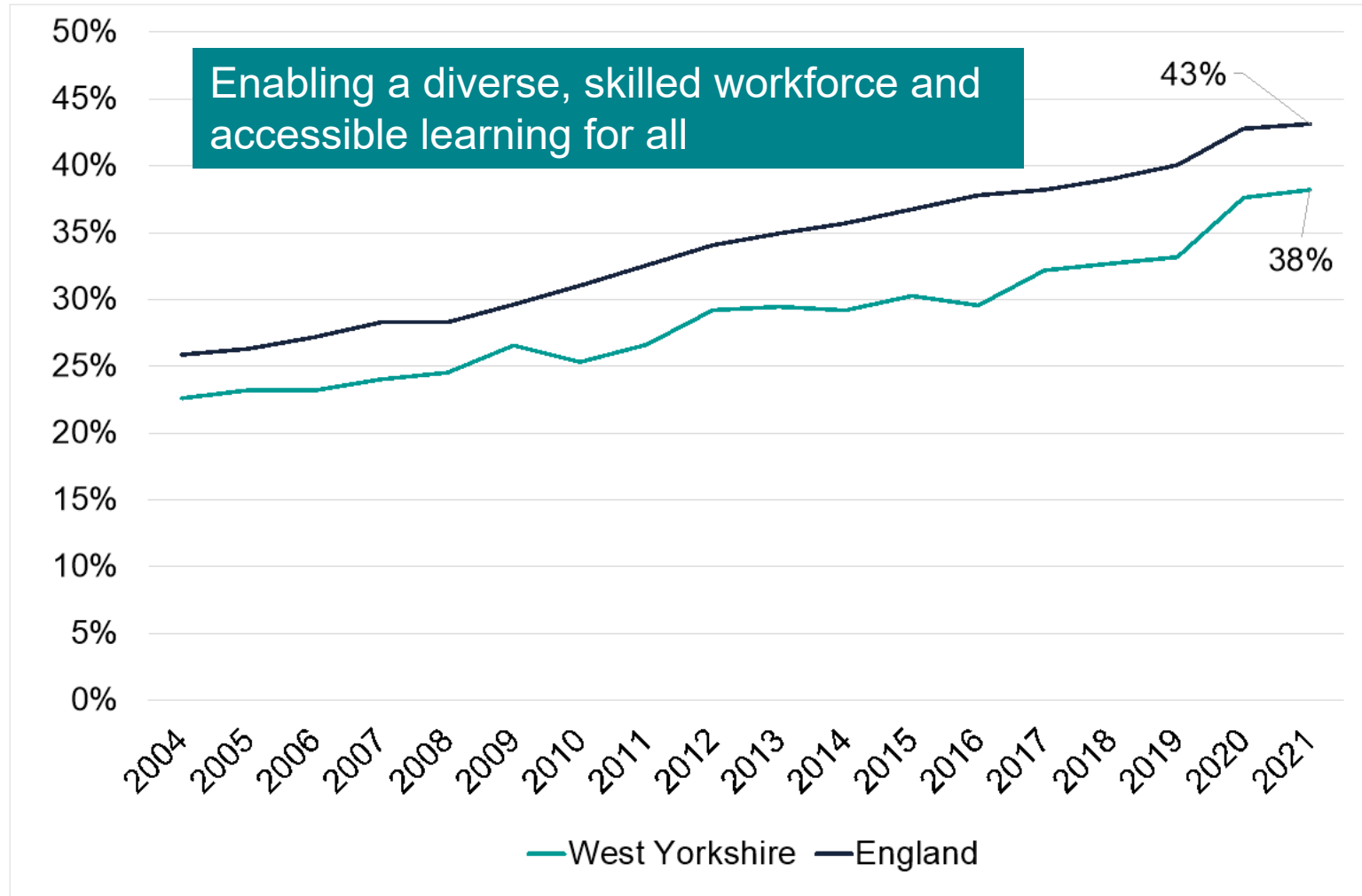
Figure: Proportion of all employee jobs paying below the Real Living Wage rate



Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS

The proportion of people with a higher level qualification is growing but a gap remains with the national average

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

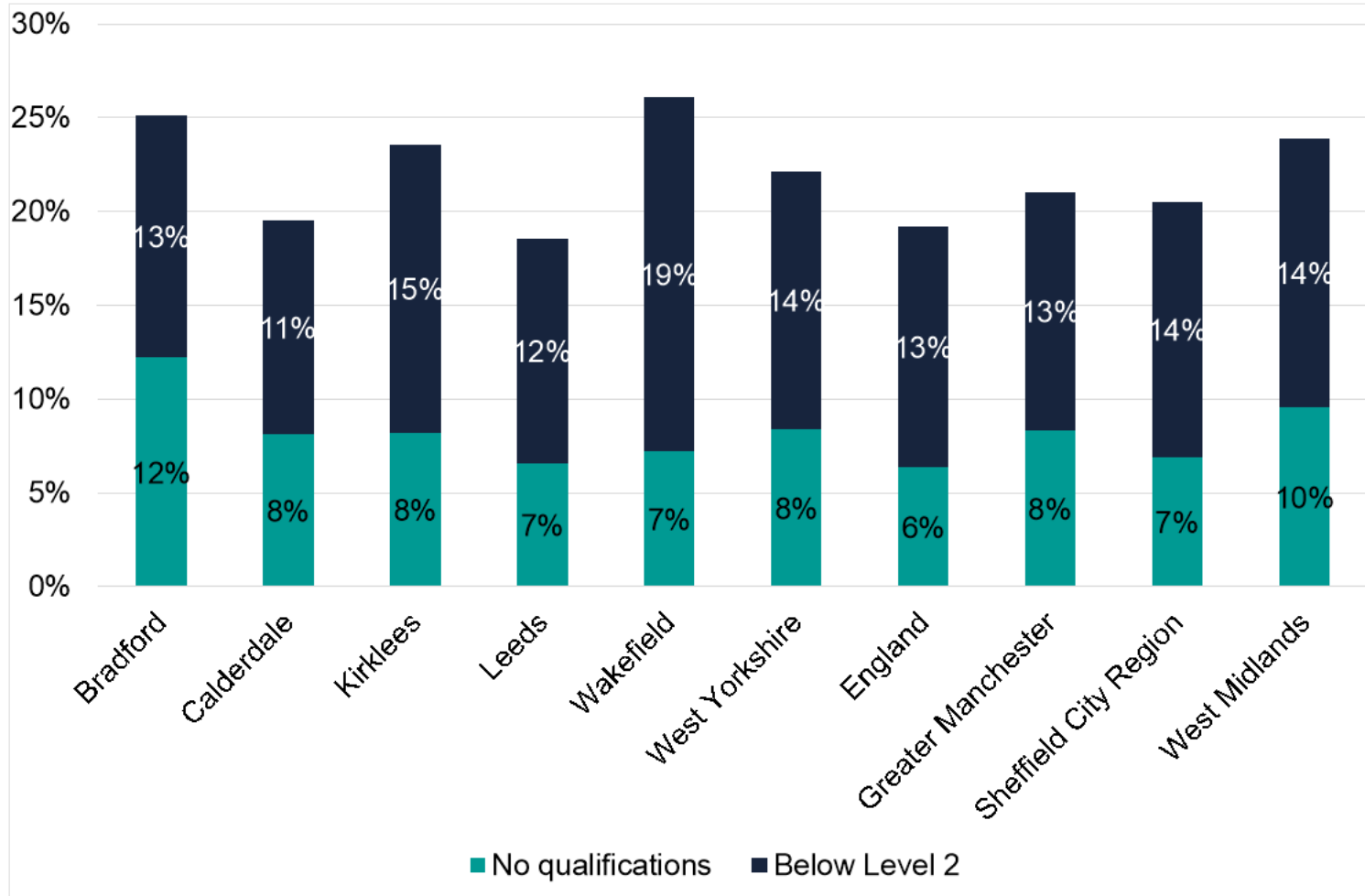


Source: Annual Population Survey, Jan – Dec periods

More than one-in-five (22%) of people in West Yorkshire have no qualifications or are qualified to a low level, with little change in 2021

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

25



Source: Annual Population Survey, Jan – Dec 2021

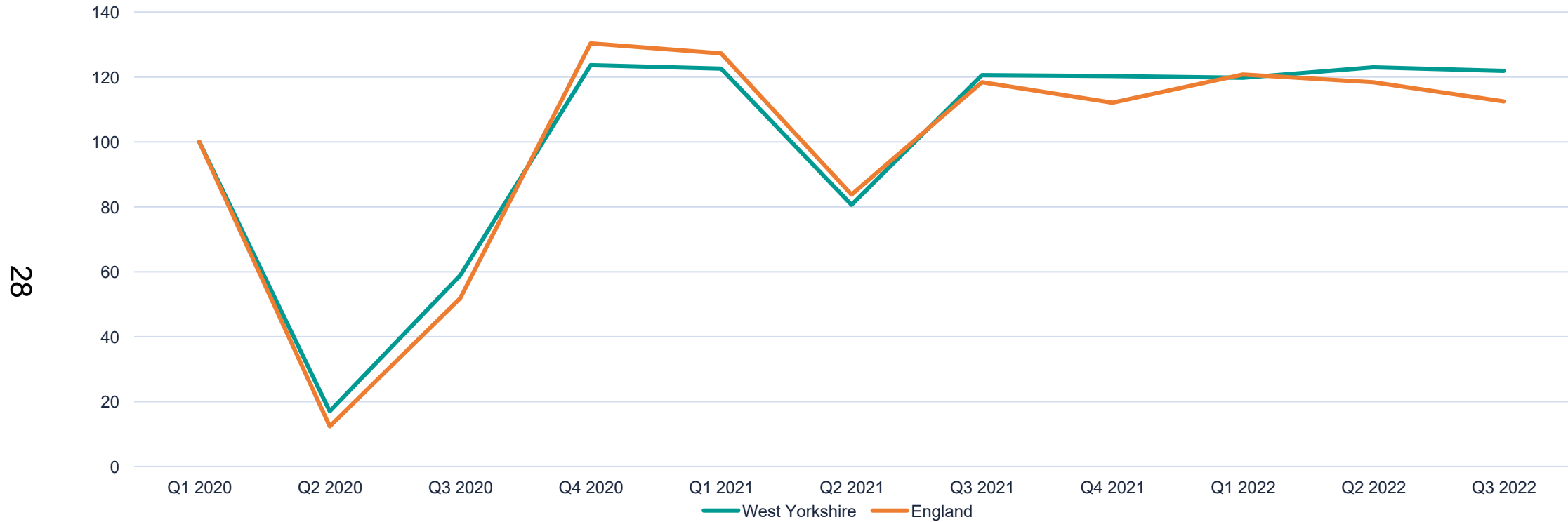
Labour market reporting, October 2022

National context

- Fall in employment rate in latest quarter (Jun-Aug 22) - remains below pre-pandemic value
- Number of employees fell during quarter but increase in self-employed
- Unemployment rate is lowest since 1974 (3.5%) but labour force still shrinking due to inactivity (see below)
- Sectoral pattern of employment has not returned to pre-crisis picture
- ²⁷ Number of vacancies is now falling but level remains high in historic terms
- Labour market remains tight - unemployed people per vacancy fell to a record low
- Average pay growing strongly in nominal terms but falling in real terms due to inflation. Pay growth powered by private sector with public sector growth remaining weak.
- Economic inactivity rate increased in quarter, mainly due to increase in long-term sick (now at record levels) and students – working age inactive now = 9m

Business liquidations in West Yorkshire have been 20% above pre-pandemic levels for the past 15 months

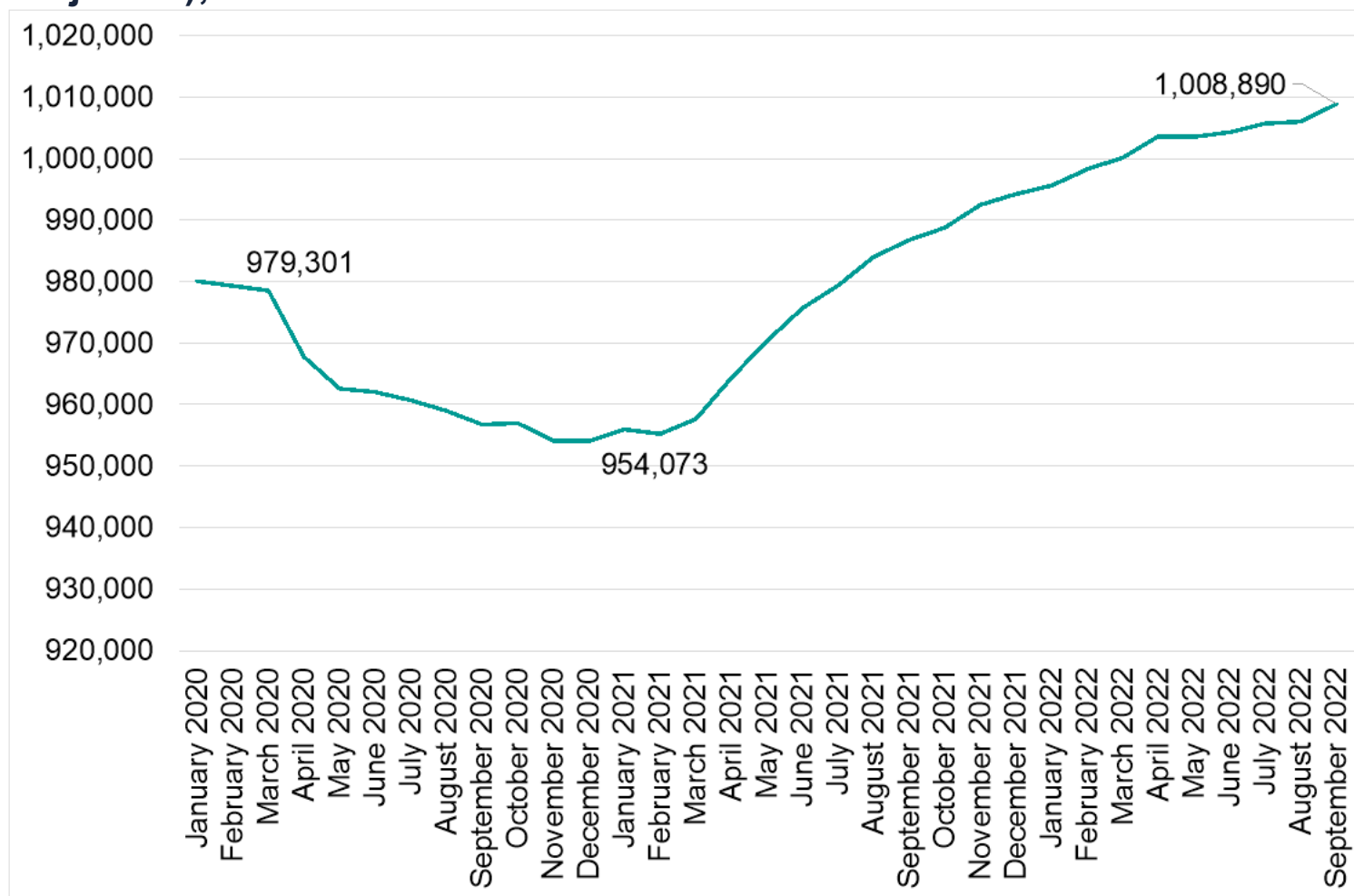
Figure: Trend in business liquidations



Source: FAME, Bureau van Dijk, 2022

The count of payrolled employees continues to grow

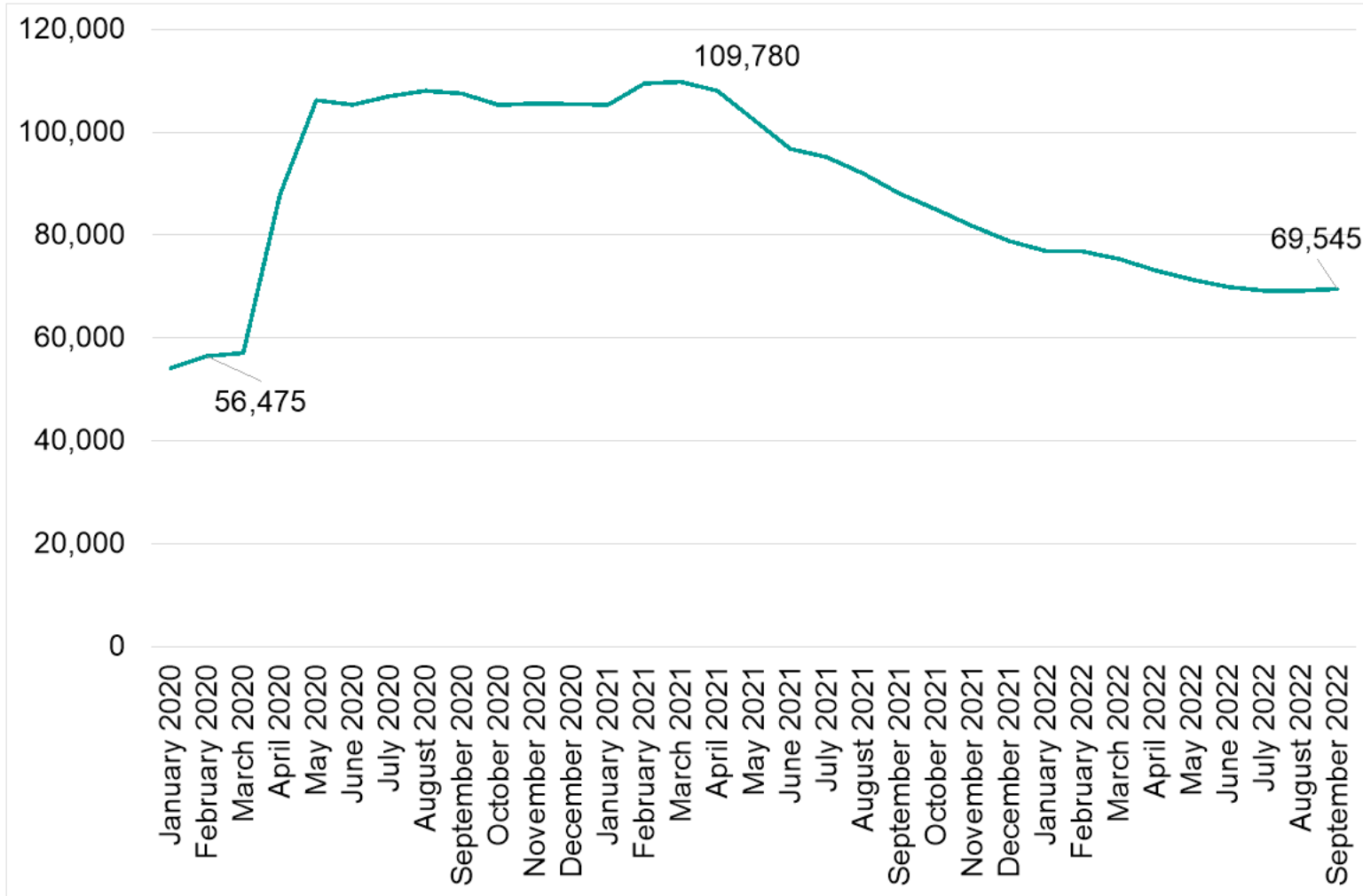
Figure: Count of payroll employees from PAYE Real-time information (seasonally adjusted); West Yorkshire



Source: HMRC

But the downward trend in the Claimant Count has stalled

Figure: Trend in Claimant Count, West Yorkshire

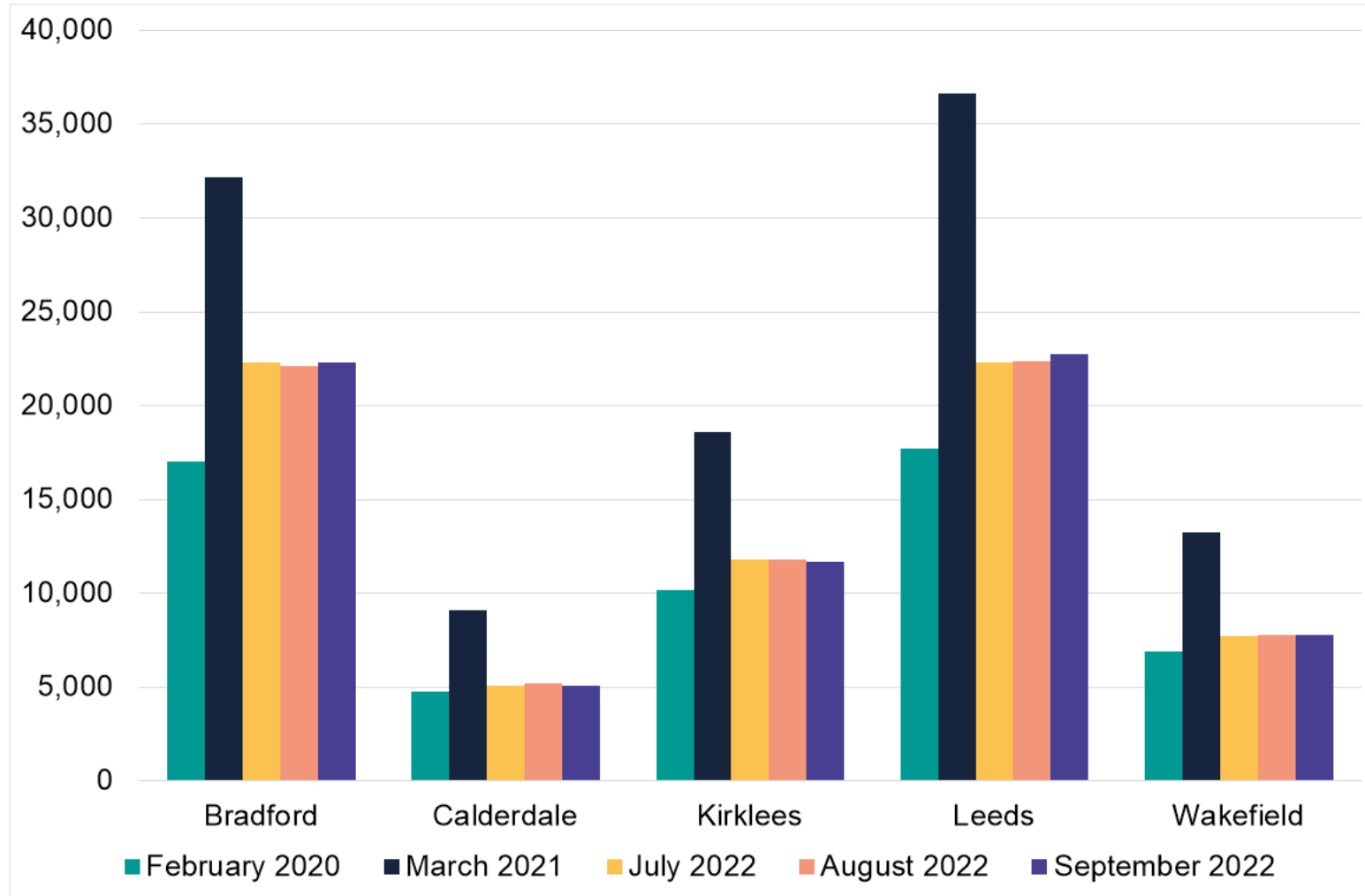


The Claimant Count is a measure of people claiming benefits primarily because they are out of work

Source: Claimant Count, ONS

Claimant Count has remained flat across all local authorities over last three months

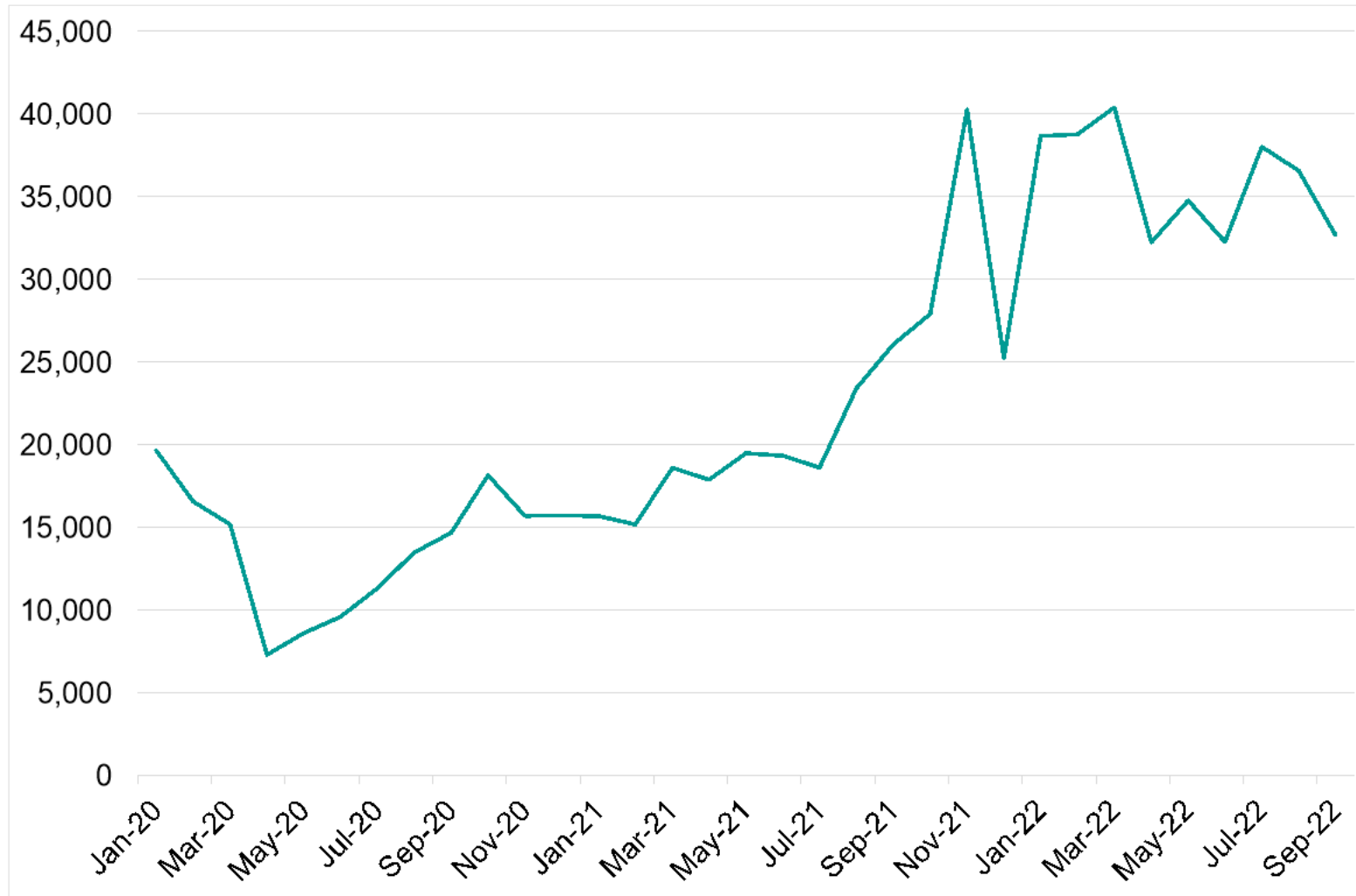
Figure: Trend in Claimant Count by local authority



Source: Claimant Count, ONS

Recruitment activity remains high by historic standards

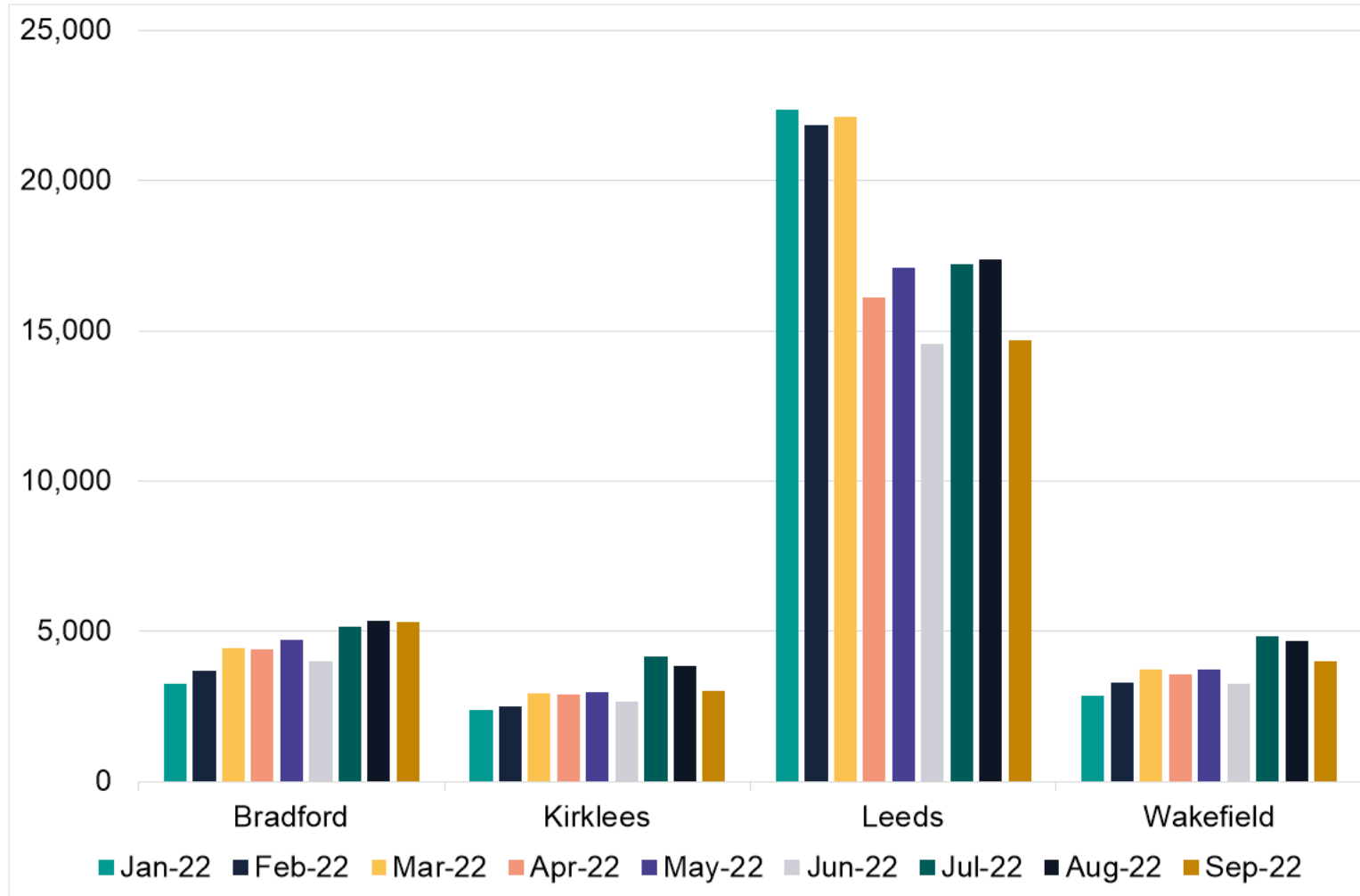
Figure: Trend in monthly count of online job postings - West Yorkshire



Source: Lightcast

Monthly count of job postings in Leeds is well below peak seen in early 2022; other local authorities have seen an increase since start of year

Figure: Trend in monthly count of unique online job postings by local authority



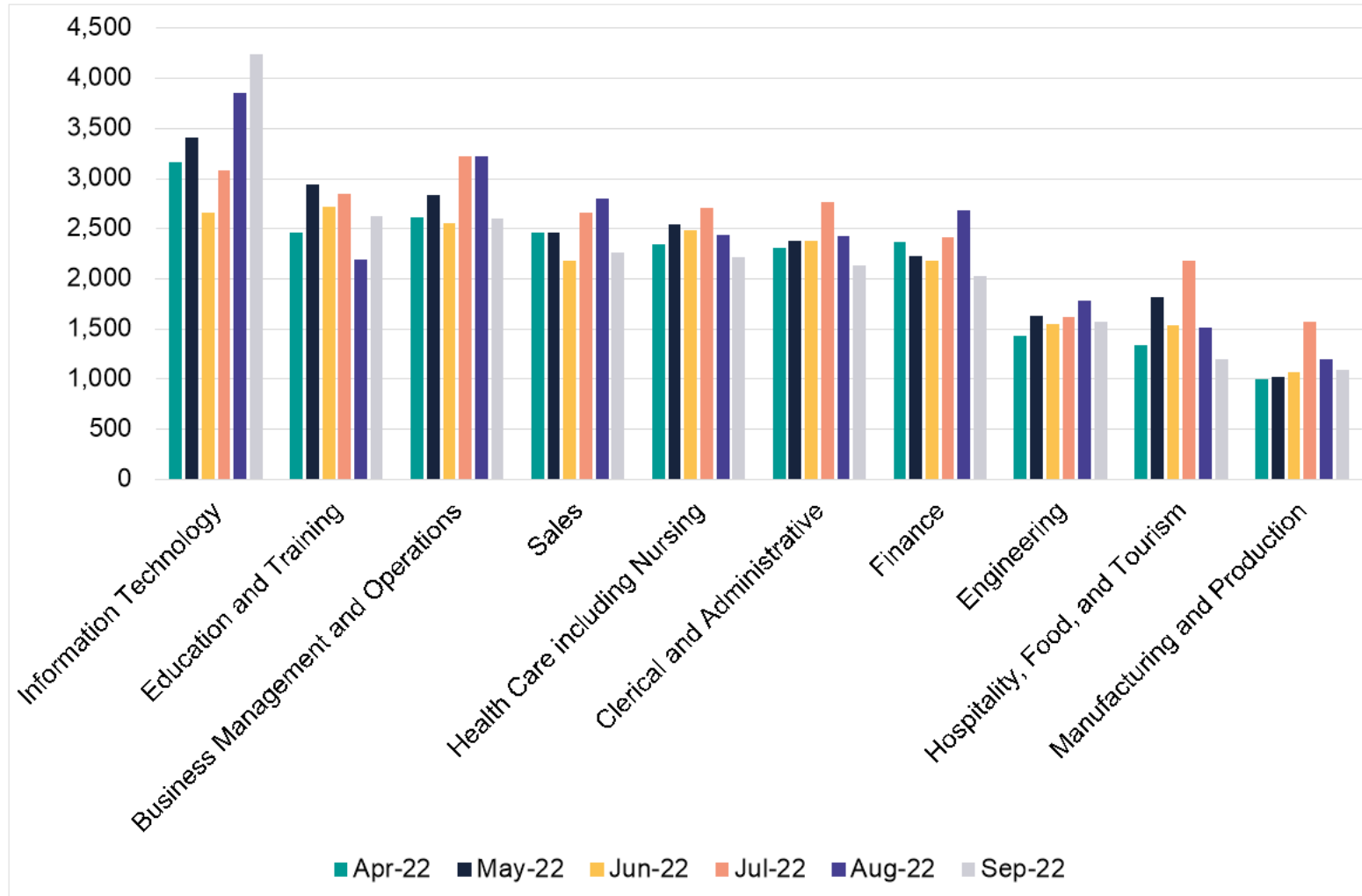
NB: data not currently available for Calderdale due to technical issues. Also note that a proportion of West Yorkshire job postings cannot be assigned to a local authority location.

33

Source: Lightcast

Performance across occupations shows a mixed picture

Figure: Monthly count of unique online job postings by top 10 occupational groups, West Yorkshire



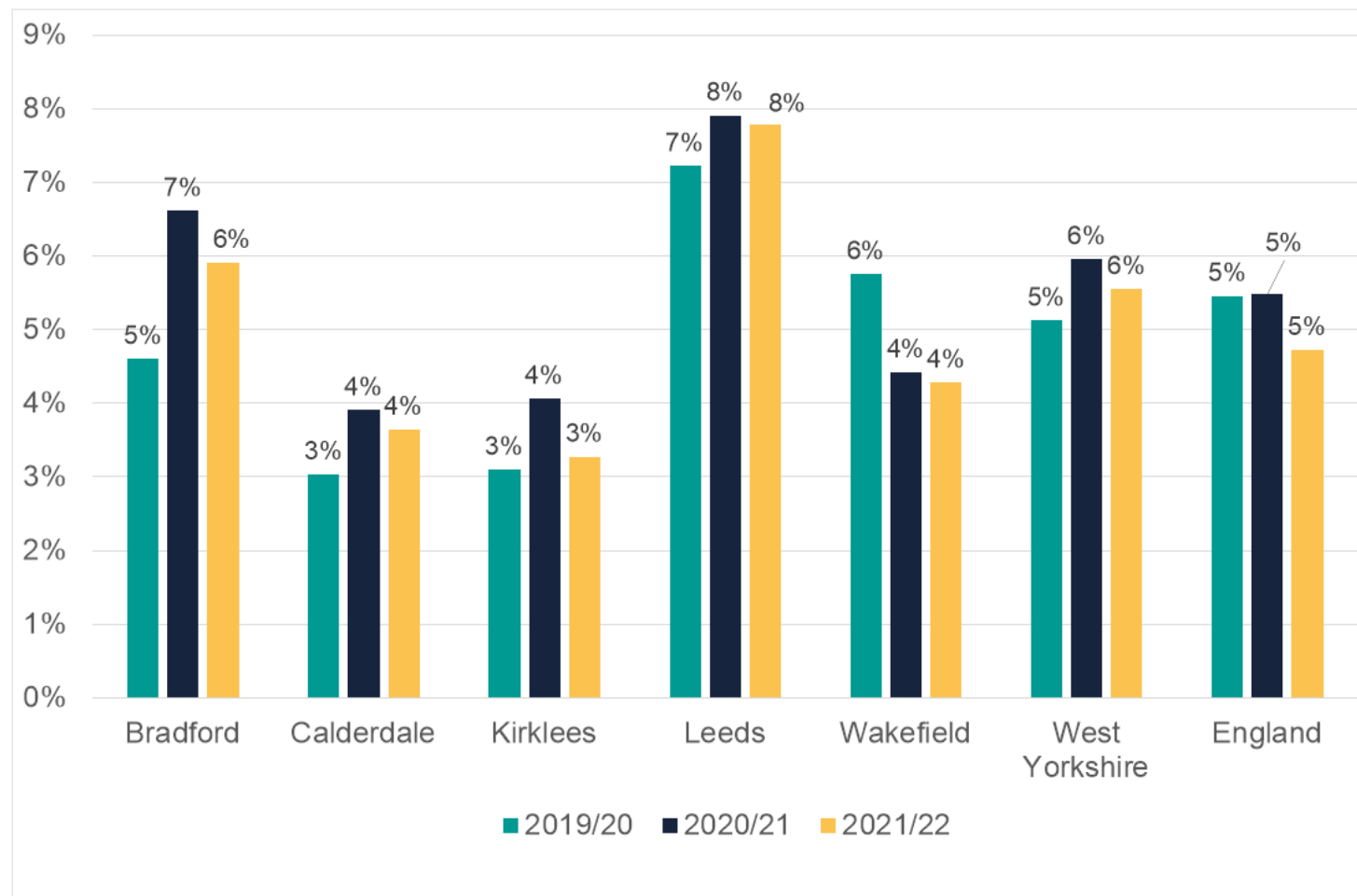
Number of postings increased in Information Technology and Education and Training in September compared with previous month but other areas fell, with Finance and Hospitality, food and tourism seeing the biggest reductions

34

Source: Lightcast

NEETs fell in West Yorkshire in 2022 but remain above national average

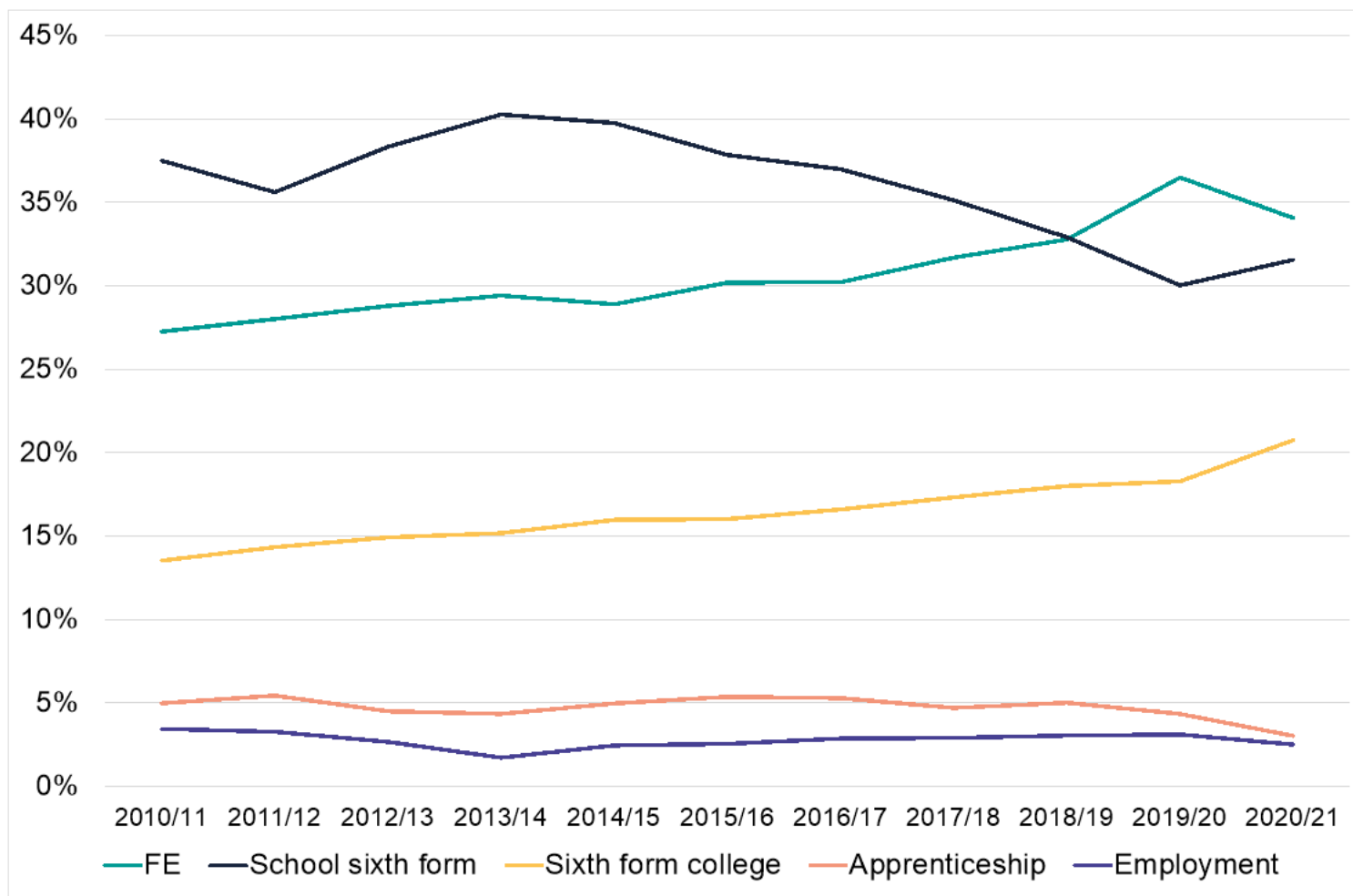
Figure: Trend in proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known



Source: NEET and participation: local authority figures, Department for Education

A small proportion of young people enter an apprenticeship or employment following Key Stage 4

Figure: Destinations of KS4 pupils from state-funded mainstream schools, West Yorkshire

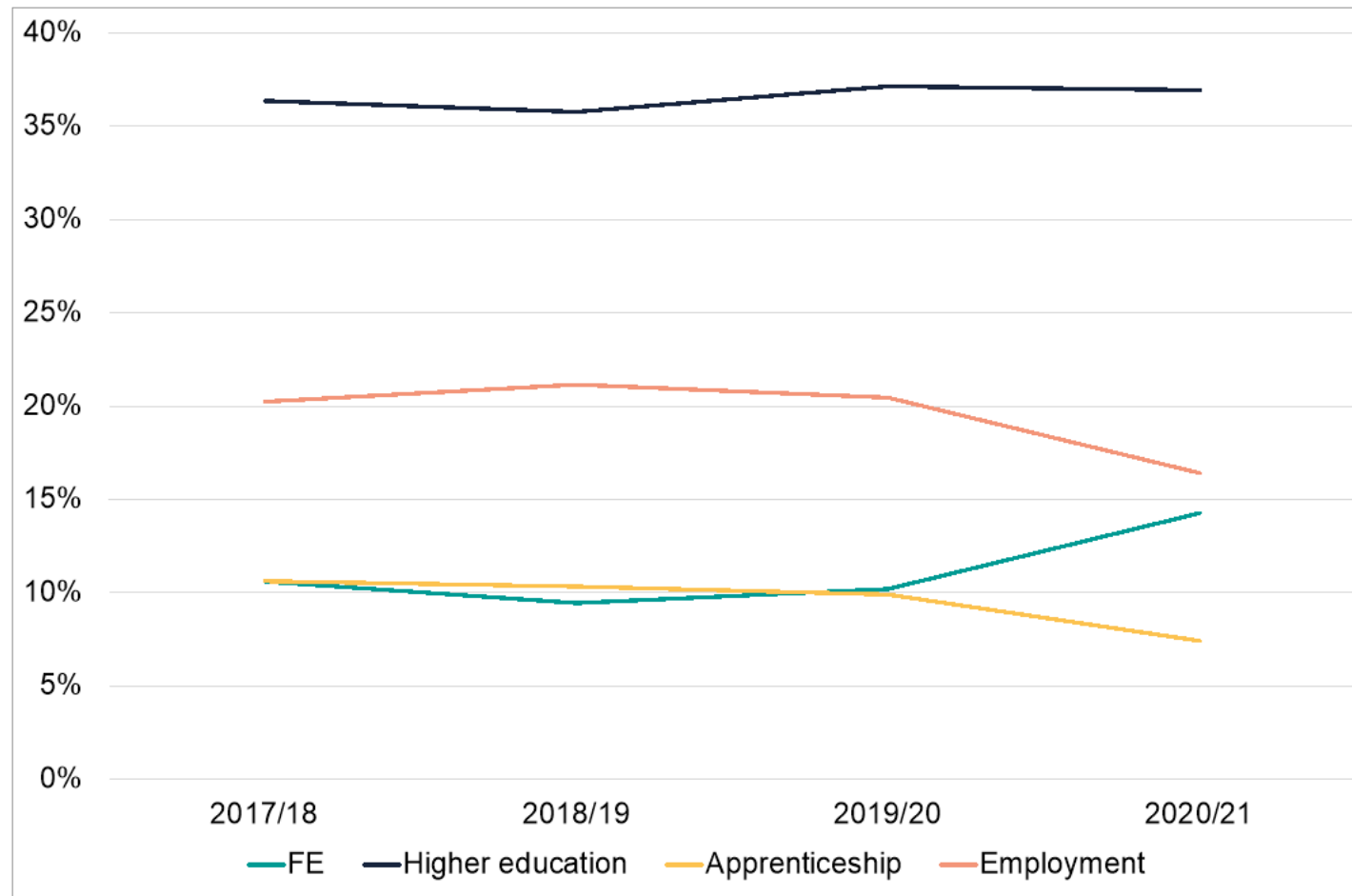


Source: KS4 Destination Measures, DfE

The proportion of students entering Further Education following 16-18 study increased in 2020/21

Figure: Destinations of 16-18 students from state-funded mainstream schools and colleges, West Yorkshire

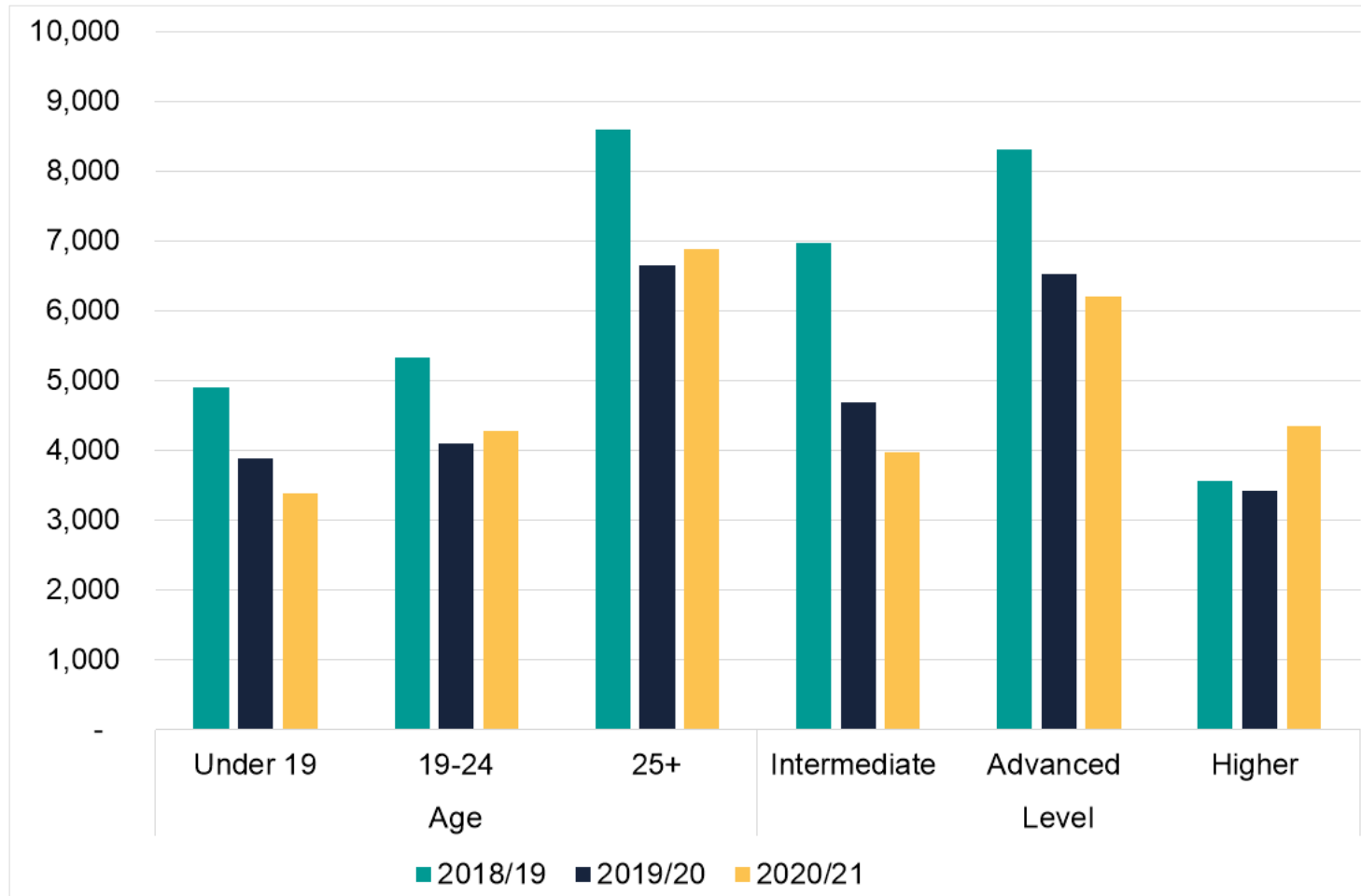
37



Source: 16-18 Destination Measures, DfE

Take-up of apprenticeships remains well below pre-pandemic levels

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



Source: Department for Education



Report to:	Economic Scrutiny
Date:	16 November 2022
Subject:	Current programmes for young people

Director:	Phil Witcherley, Interim Director of Economic Services
Author:	Michelle Burton, Head of Employment and Skills

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. This report provides an overview of current Combined Authority programmes to support young people's careers.

2. Information


Context

- 2.1. Around 3,100 young people aged 16 and 17 were not in education employment or training (NEET or unknown) between December 2021 and February 2022 (latest data). This is around 5.5% of all 16- and 17-year-olds compared to an England average of 4.7%. The prevalence of NEETs varies across West Yorkshire local authorities, with the highest proportion in Leeds at nearly 8%.
- 2.2. Young people in receipt of SEN Support, classified as having Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (and have an education, health and care plan) and with mental health needs are most likely to be NEET.
- 2.3. The vast majority (87%) of local pupils entered a sustained education destination following KS4 (GCSE or equivalent) in West Yorkshire in 2020/21, equal to the national average of 87%. The proportions of pupils entering an apprenticeship or employment at this age are both relatively small.
- 2.4. Similar destination data are available for young people in the academic year after completing 16 to 18 studies (finishing year 13, usually aged 18). Overall, 78% of local students from state-funded mainstream schools and colleges entered a sustained education, apprenticeship or employment destination in 2020/21, similar to the national average of 79%.
- 2.5. The take-up of apprenticeships in West Yorkshire is relatively strong. With 14,528 apprenticeship starts during the 2020/21 academic year, there were around 13.7 apprenticeship starts per 1,000 people in employment, somewhat above the national average of 12.3.

Overview of Combined Authority employment and skills delivery

2.6. This paper focuses on careers support for young people. However, the Combined Authority also delivers programmes and commissions employment and skills provision to support employers and adults and the graphic below provides a summary of the full offer. Some of this is funded through devolved sources and some is externally funded including by Department for Education, Careers and Enterprise Company and Department for Work and Pensions.

Employment and skills offers delivered by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership



Young People				
FutureGoals Campaign to inspire and inform young people about careers.	Employment Hub Providing support through individual advice, guidance, apprenticeship and employment opportunities.	Schools Partnership Matching business volunteers to schools and colleges for promotion of career pathways and labour market information and raising aspirations for young people in West Yorkshire.	SEND Support Careers resources to support those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), educators within SEND schools and colleges, parents and carers and businesses.	
Adults				
FutureGoals Campaign to inspire and inform adults about careers and support them to upskill or change career.	Skills Connect Courses for individuals to retrain and upskill in key sectors including digital, construction, manufacturing and engineering and creative sectors.	Adult Education Budget Supports West Yorkshire residents who are unemployed to gain sustained employment and increase the skills for employed individuals to progress whilst in work.	Employment Hub Linking all age groups with training and retraining, employment and apprenticeship opportunities and self-employment.	Enterprise West Yorkshire Supports individuals from diverse communities to find out if starting a business is right for them and learn how to run a start-up business.
Business				
Employment Hub Provides businesses with access to employment or recruitment support including apprenticeships and a talent matching service for individuals seeking employment.	Skills for Growth Supports business skills and growth needs by engaging with the wide range of education establishments in the region.	Enterprise Adviser Network Engages employers to volunteer as an Enterprise Adviser to develop careers support in schools.	Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Supports businesses not spending all of their levy funding, to transfer up to 25% of their annual contribution to fund apprenticeships in other organisations.	Enterprise West Yorkshire Supports start-up businesses from diverse communities to grow through online and face to face workshops and tailored advice.

2.7. Through these programmes:

- Over 1,000 businesses have been supported over 2 years to create a pipeline of talent
- £3.2m apprenticeship levy transfer secured to fund apprenticeships in SMEs
- In partnership with LAs, over 10,000 people provided with employment support since 2019 (41% ethnic minority; 21% disability or learning difficulty)
- 1,000 people from diverse backgrounds are being supported to explore setting up a business
- Strategic commissioning of £70m annual devolved adult skilled funding has prioritised funding on the most disadvantaged residents, while also tackling key job shortages such as bus drivers and telecoms engineers
- In 22/23, over 2,500 adults are being supported to upskill and re-train in our most acute skills shortage areas
- Reach of 3.2m in 21/22 through futuregoals all-age careers platform
- Supporting 184 schools and colleges to improve careers standards and young people's destinations

Futuregoals

- 2.2 The WY all-age careers platform <https://www.futuregoals.co.uk> provides careers inspiration and support and achieved reach of 3.2m in 2021/22. Improvements continue to be made via user testing, focus groups to review navigability and functionality and working with external organisations to review existing content. The organic views and returning visitors to the site remain high, and the resource is well-used in schools and by careers professionals. Future areas for development for the site include the 2022 labour market report which is currently being designed and will be launched on the platform in 2023. Work is being undertaken to evaluate the existing content, particularly for school staff, careers leaders and parents, in order to ensure this is relevant and is up to date.

Employment Support

- 2.3 The Employment Hub, funded via Gainshare, provides a flexible support programme to all-age residents across West Yorkshire addressing post pandemic employment issues. Delivery, in partnership with our five West Yorkshire local authorities, commenced in August 2021 and will run until March 2023. So far 57% of people supported (2349) have been aged 15-24.

School partnerships

- 2.4 The Combined Authority works with 185 secondary schools and colleges to improve careers standards and the destinations of the young people of West Yorkshire, particularly the most disadvantaged. This is co-funded by the Government's Career's and Enterprise Company. Through a team of 14 staff – strongly rooted in local teams – the Combined Authority works closely with Careers Leaders and Headteachers to:
- Recruit Enterprise Advisers (business volunteers) to work strategically with schools
 - Improve schools' performance towards the Gatsby benchmarks of good careers guidance
 - Ensure that young people, particularly the most disadvantaged, have meaningful engagement with employers, as this is proven to have a positive impact on destinations
 - Support young people, their teachers, parents and key influencers, to understand the career opportunities that West Yorkshire offers, and how to access them including through T-levels and Apprenticeships
- 2.5 Working closely with Local Authorities to complement their provision and address local needs, the Combined Authority's school partnerships activity commenced in 2016, and is the Combined Authority's longest running

education and skills offer. Throughout the Covid lockdowns, this support was integral to ensuring that schools were able to offer virtual work experience to mitigate the negative impacts particularly on our most disadvantaged young people.

2.6 In recent months, the Combined Authority's school partnerships offer has included:

- Transition to a West Yorkshire Careers Hub (WYC hub) which will provide free support to the region's secondary schools and colleges to have a modern 21st century, gold-standard careers system, rooted in local information and careers support. In addition to mainstream schools and colleges, SEND/ PRU's and Alternative Provision schools, apprenticeship and in-work training providers and businesses of every size and sector can join. This support will enable all young people in West Yorkshire to raise their aspirations and will contribute to their individual motivation, resilience, employability, destinations and social capital. It will build on learning from our EAN network, SEND Hub, Kirklees and Calderdale and Regional Hub which is now all encompassed within the WYC hub.
- Positive progress has been made towards the target to support all 185 schools and colleges in the network to make progress in the delivery of quality careers education (measured by the Gatsby benchmarks).
- Specific interventions to address takeup of career options by young people with different protected characteristics, including increasing girls' awareness of sectors where women are under-represented.
- Working with Ahead Partnership we have launched the Green Skills Youth Programme which will be developed and delivered with the support of the Green Jobs Taskforce. This programme will help bring green jobs to life for young people, developing essential employability skills including teamwork, critical thinking, analysis and research, creative thought, advocacy and communication skills.

SEND support

2.7 Schools partnerships activity includes specific activity to support young people with special educational needs and disabilities due to their disadvantage in the labour market. In particular:

- Launch by the Mayor of a toolkit to encourage employers to offer work experience and employment opportunities to young people with SEND <https://futuregoals.co.uk/learn/send-support/>

- The Burberry Foundation has co-funded activity to enhance creative skills in five Special Educational Needs and Disability Schools. This is now complete with a full evaluation and case studies. Learning will be considered prior launching a final round of Raising Aspirations funding in Jan 2023 where we hope to see around 10-15 schools and colleges directly support disadvantaged pupils.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1. Careers support for young people includes a focus on raising awareness of the opportunities that green jobs present, including through the recent green skills youth programme.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1. Activity to support young people particularly targets those most disadvantaged including those with special educational needs and disabilities and from the most disadvantaged parts of the region.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1. CA programmes proactively target educational institutions with the most diverse intake and specific interventions target young people with different protected characteristics, including increasing girls' awareness of sectors where women are under-represented. Through Futuregoals, case studies showcase the vast range of career opportunities that the region offers and particularly highlights people from underrepresented groups in particular sectors. Through the Employment Hub, 50% of participants so far (2,080) have been from an ethnic minority and 23% (955) have declared a disability.

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 on this report.

10. Recommendations

10.1. That the Committee notes and comments on the report.

11. Background Documents

None.

12. Appendices

None.

Report to:	Economic Scrutiny Committee
Date:	16 November 2022
Subject:	Adult Education Budget

Director:	Philip Witcherley, Interim Director Economic Services
Author:	Lindsey Daniels, AEB Manager

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. To provide an overview of the Adult Education Budget and outline the changes made through devolution.

2. Information

Devolution and the Adult Education Budget in West Yorkshire

- 2.1 West Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority has had devolved Adult Education Budgets (AEB) since August 2021. This was included as part of the 2020 devolution deal agreed between West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and Government.
- 2.2 The Adult Education Budget is an underpinning fund in tackling low level adult skills and connecting people to employment. Longstanding skills shortages and mismatches remain a challenge for individuals, employers and the wider economy, including:
- More than a fifth of West Yorkshire's working age population have lower than GCSE equivalent skills
 - shortage of digital skills
 - aging workforce in manufacturing/engineering
 - projected job growth in predominantly in high skilled occupations while only 38% of working age people in WY have a qualification at level 4 or above
 - A lack of skills capability in the existing labour market to make the changes required to meet the CAs ambitions on net zero.
- 2.3 While it is an underpinning fund in upskilling adults, it is a component part of the wider skills infrastructure, and one that has seen disinvestment over the past decade. The wider adult skills infrastructure includes (but is not limited to): apprenticeship funding and levy, Higher Education loans, careers funding,

adult learner loans employer investment, individual investment, European Social Fund/UK Shared Prosperity Fund interventions, National Skills Fund interventions (e.g Free Courses for Jobs), and, for devolved areas, Gainshare funded interventions.

- 2.4 Devolution of AEB allows the region to set its own priorities for funding and allows WYCA to align spending on skills to the opportunities and needs in the local economy. This includes an annual £65million budget for West Yorkshire residents. It also includes direct management of training providers in West Yorkshire who deliver the funding provision.

What is the Adult Education Budget (AEB)?

- 2.5 The principal purpose of AEB is to engage adults and provide them with the skills needed for entering and sustaining work, an apprenticeship/traineeship, or other further learning and to achieve the equivalent of GCSE and A Level qualifications. The funding pays specifically for learning programmes (predominantly qualifications) and provides an element of learner support funding for those with learning difficulties and disabilities.

- 2.6 AEB supports the following legal entitlements to full funding for eligible learners:

- First Full Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE grade C/4)
- First Full Level 3 (equivalent to A level)
- English and Maths
- Digital

In the national system, there are age restrictions regarding these entitlements, however through devolution, and consolidation of funding streams, we have removed these barriers and simplified access for our residents.

- 2.7 Any adult over the age of 19 is eligible for support through AEB. In particular, the following people are entitled to access free training if they are:
- Unemployed and seeking work
 - Wanting to achieve Level 2 (GCSE grade C/4) in Maths or English for the first time
 - Earning a low wage (currently less than £21,255)
 - Wanting to achieve basic digital skills
 - wanting to achieve their first GCSE or A Level equivalent qualification

AEB Strategy

- 2.8 The West Yorkshire AEB Strategy ([Background Document A](#)) was developed as part of the preparation for and implementation of devolution. It highlights strengths, opportunities and challenges across the region and sets out key priorities for the devolved Adult Education Budget to ensure it supports the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Strategic Vision.

2.9 The key priorities for the West Yorkshire Adult Education Budget are:

- Support the unemployed to gain and sustain employment
- Unlock progression opportunities and career adaptability through skills, particularly for those on low wages and with insecure work
- Make learning more inclusive to support disadvantaged residents
- Increase the supply of skills to support key sectors in West Yorkshire
- Improve West Yorkshire's resilience by identifying and delivering the skills needed for the future

AEB funding lines

2.10 AEB funding is made up of 4 components:

- a. **Formula funding (approx £46 million of the overall West Yorkshire AEB pot)** – funding per learner, per qualification delivered. The funding rate achieved is based on the size/type of qualification and is weighted depending on a learner's status (eg unemployed) and based on areas of disadvantage. This funds sector specific vocational programmes, along with English, Maths, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), digital skills and employability programmes.

8.5
- b. **Community learning (approx. £8.5 million of overall annual funds)** is a sub-set of the Adult Education Budget. It is exceptionally flexible and operates on an open book accounting basis, with providers able to set their own fee policy, based on a set of funding principles. The purpose of Community learning is to develop the skills, confidence, motivation, and resilience of adults of different ages and backgrounds. Only LAs and FE Colleges hold this funding.
- c. **Learner support (approx. £4.2 million)** is available to provide financial support for residents with a specific financial hardship preventing them from taking part/ continuing in learning (i.e., travel, equipment, fee waivers).
- d. **Learning support (approx. £4.1 million)** meets the cost of putting in place a reasonable adjustment, as set out in the Equality Act 2010, for learners who have an identified learning difficulty and/ or disability, to achieve their learning goal.

The Provider Base

2.11 Maintaining stability in the system was an important requirement from Department for Education in securing the devolution deal.

2.12 **Before devolution**, AEB funding was split between over 200 providers: including 'grant holders' (Local Authorities and Colleges), and independent training providers.

2.13 Commissioning of the AEB budget was divided in to three routes:

- a. **West Yorkshire grant providers:** Local Authorities and the West Yorkshire Colleges – these are our local place shapers and have a strategic delivery role in supporting West Yorkshire adults.
 - b. **Leeds City Region grant providers:** these neighbouring providers support learner choice and travel to learn/work patterns, thus reduced the need for cross-border agreements.
 - c. **Procured training providers.** The remaining allocations were procured through an open competitive tendering process to bring in specialist and targeted training provision for our residents and sectors of need.
- 2.14 **Following devolution**, we now have 38 providers who deliver AEB funding provision to West Yorkshire Residents. This has reduced administration costs and reduced subcontracting ensuring more money is available to support learners.
- 2.15 Since devolution of the AEB, subsequent delegated funds have been nested within this team: 'Free Courses for Jobs' and Multiply (part of UK Shared Prosperity Fund). This has ensured the teams working practices and expertise has been fully utilised, while minimising ongoing overheads.
- 2.16 Providers and their allocations can be found in Appendix 1.

Devolved Delivery – Year 1

- 2.17 In 2021/22 around 46,000 residents were supported through the Adult Education Budget: 63% of these individuals were not in work and 41% were from the top ten most deprived areas in West Yorkshire. Data for the full year's performance is currently being processed by the team and we anticipate releasing an End of Year 1 evaluation report in January 2023, which will report on progress to strategic priorities.
- 2.18 Appendix 2 provides more detail on the subject studied, type of qualification and the demographic information of the learners.
- 2.19 As mentioned in paragraph 2.2, devolution of AEB funds means that the Combined Authority has more freedom and control over how the money is spent to achieve the greatest impact on its West Yorkshire residents. While stability in the system is important, it is critical we shape the funding to better meet our residents' and economic needs.
- 2.20 As such, a number of improvements were made in year 1 of devolution, with more planned for the second year.
- 2.21 **Local Partnership Management**
Prior to devolution the Combined Authority would not have had visibility of delivery occurring in West Yorkshire until months after the year had ended. Through devolution we now obtain up front delivery plans from our providers, we have access to monthly data, and we meet regularly to discuss progress and challenges.

- 2.22 Regular meetings are held with Local Authorities, given their role as key place shapers in West Yorkshire. Data is analysed and shared regularly on a provider and area basis to help inform provision and steer partnership discussions, improving the targetting of the funding towards priority areas and groups.
- 2.23 Partnership meetings bring providers together to focus on a place-based approach. The team facilitates links to key providers in order to ensure AEB funds meet needs – this includes linking providers to NHS trusts to provide basic English and maths skills, linking providers to the WY Police service to provide recruitment training programmes.
- 2.24 Increasing the Focus of Funding on the Most Disadvantaged
In March 2022 the Combined Authority increased the low wage threshold from national living wage to real living wage. This means that anyone currently earning less than £21,255 has access to free training that can support in-work progression.
- 2.25 The Combined Authority approved the following flexibilities to adopt in Year 2. The flexibilities open up access to the funding, reducing complex eligibility criteria and investing funding in residents who most need support to upskill.
- a. Expanding the age of entitlement for a ‘first full level 2’ or GCSE grade C4 equivalent from 19-23 to 19 plus
 - b. Providing full funding for eligible asylum seekers
 - c. Increasing the number of courses 19-23s are entitled to
 - d. Waiving the ‘3 Year UK Residency’ status for full funding
- 2.17 Trialling New Programmes
A £4 million fund was retained for year 1 to respond to emerging economic problems. Through this funding we were able to offer contract growth to providers who were successful in engaging with residents and meeting their needs.
- 2.26 For 2022/23 the Combined Authority also approved the following flexibilities to trial new programmes:
- a. Expanding the digital entitlement – making more qualifications available for free to residents looking to increase their digital skills
 - b. Bridging Programmes - supporting residents to engage with and enrol on a level 3 programme: this may include refreshing skills, undertaking a taster to level 3, understanding the study skills required to succeed at level 3.
- 2.27 Two procurements were undertaken in year 1:
- a. To develop a Bus Driver Training scheme in collaboration with West Yorkshire bus operators.
 - b. To increase the delivery of Level 3 (or A Level equivalent) in West Yorkshire, including ‘bridging programmes’ that support learners in taking up this higher-level qualification. Successful providers are

delivering training programmes in e.g., Telecoms engineering, Health and Social Care, Coding and Cyber Security.

Current and Future Developments

- 2.28 Plans for the year 2 and 4 responsiveness pots are underway, with a focus on:
- Targetting 'cold spots' where participation is low in deprived areas
 - Respond to the needs of the Green Jobs Task Force
 - Respond to the needs of the digital skills plan
 - Skilled sector ('good jobs') with vacancies
 - Supporting ex-offenders
 - Supporting care leavers
 - Emerging economic needs
- 2.29 An external review of the Community Learning provision is underway. This is focussing on the impact of the funds which are invested in West Yorkshire, the effectiveness of progression and value for money the service brings. A report will be returned to the Employment and Skills Committee for discussion and recommendations
- 2.30 The latest Employment and Skills Committee meeting called for an options appraisal regarding increasing the AEB funding rate. This is being prepared for the next Combined Authority meeting.
- 2.31 Once end of year data is available, we will also review subcontracting practices. While we recognise a real positive in subcontracting allowing funds to flow to grassroot organisations who are key to engaging the most disadvantaged, we can see undesirable practice in the system which is losing unnecessary funds to management fees.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1. There are no climate emergency implications directly arising from this report, however there is a commitment through the responsiveness fund to increase the provision of green skills delivered through AEB.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1. The overall aim of AEB funded provision is to support those citizens who have a skills deficit and need to access learning opportunities to progress them towards further learning, employment or a better way of life.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1. This fund seeks to address inequality in skills acquisition. AEB is targeted towards individuals with low skills and who are unemployed.
- 5.2 The funds support social mobility through targetted engagement and training provision. Enrolment data demonstrates that 41% of participants are engaged

from the top 10% most deprived neighbourhoods as defined by the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

- 5.3 Analysis of available data demonstrates good uptake from protected characteristics, e.g.:
- 57% of participants are from a non-white ethnic minority, which far exceeds the WY demographic population.
 - 65% of participants are female. This is in line with need, as fewer females in WY have a level 2 qualification than males.

- 5.4 Engagement statistics are reported in Appendix 2, and this will be expanded to include achievements and impact in the End of Year 1 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. **Recommendations**

- 9.1. That the Committee notes the report and provides any comments.

10. **Background Documents**

- A) [AEB Strategy](#)
- B) [AEB Funding Rules](#)

11. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – AEB Providers and allocations
Exempt Appendix 2 – AEB Year 1 performance data

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Appendix 1: AEB Providers and Allocations

Provider Name	21/22 Allocation	22/23 Allocation
Bradford City Council	£779,319	£802,698.59
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	£1,086,355	£1,118,945.91
Kirklees Metropolitan Council	£285,515	£294,080.27
Leeds City Council	£2,223,421	£2,290,123.92
Wakefield City Council	£2,050,608	£2,112,125.96
Bradford College	£7,712,728	£7,944,109.73
Calderdale College	£4,118,567	£4,242,123.55
Kirklees College	£7,143,599	£7,357,907.01
Luminate Education Group	£15,323,654	£16,257,254.71
Leeds College Of Building	£1,131,256	£1,165,193.61
ShIPLEY College	£1,706,836	£1,758,041.47
Heart of Yorkshire Education Group	£1,621,786	£1,785,089.00
City Of York Council	£10,850	£10,849.56
Askham Bryan College	£526,073.00	£526,072.66
Barnsley College	£144,229	£144,229.23
Craven College	£483,615	£568,772.34
Northern College	£955,193	£788,530.25
York College	£86,276	£86,275.97
Workers' Educational Association (WEA)	£1,565,349	£1,093,620.21
Aim2Learn	£100,097.82	£300,293.27
Back2Work Complete Training Ltd	£1,000,000.00	£1,450,000.00
B-Skill Ltd	£208,936.00	£233,936.00
Business Training Ventures Limited	£375,140.40	£562,710.60
CECOS	£625,139.70	£911,569.70
DIP Batley	£246,745.20	£373,272.70
Learning Curve Group	£1,000,000.00	£1,450,000.00
Pathway First Ltd	£1,000,000.00	£1,150,000.00
People Plus Ltd	£999,451.00	£1,248,124.00
Realise Learning and Employment Limited	£1,000,000.00	£1,000,000.00
Talented Training	£152,643.50	£333,978.00
The Portland Training	£573,435.60	£573,435.60
The Skills Network	£999,996.78	£999,996.78
Think Employment Ltd	£501,006.00	£81,291.00
Total Training Provision	£358,006.80	£358,006.80
Waltham International College Ltd	£602,532.60	£903,798.60
Woodspeen Training Ltd	£714,689.30	£913,209.30

Local Authorities
West Yorkshire Colleges
Leeds City Region Providers
Independent Training Providers

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Report to:	Economic Scrutiny Committee
Date:	16 November 2022
Subject:	Employment and Skills Programmes

Director:	Phil Witcherley, Interim Director of Economic Services Liz Hunter, Director of Policy and Development
Author:	Sonya Midgley, Head of Skills Policy

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. Following devolution, West Yorkshire can have more say in how to spend devolved resources to meet local objectives. This includes devolved funding for specific programmes and projects with pre-determined outcomes such as Adult Education Budget, Local Digital Skills Partnership, and delegated funding for Free Courses for Jobs covered.
- 1.2. In addition, West Yorkshire secured gainshare funding which give the Combined Authority a multi-year settlement with greater flexibilities to prioritise investments that make a real difference to people. The Combined Authority has made notional allocations to each Investment Priority in the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS) including £21m notional allocation for Investment Priority 2 'People and Skills'
- 1.3. A future plan for Employment and Skills programmes and delivery has been developed with the Employment and Skills Committee, Local Authorities and wider partners
- 1.4. This paper provides an update on the work to date, and planned next steps.

2. Information

Strategic Context

- 2.1. Whilst West Yorkshire has lower levels of skills than the national average, there are some key areas of strength including digital skills with the fastest growing digital tech sector outside London and with digital skills being above the national average
- 2.2. Low skills are often associated with disadvantage as well as other challenges including health, environmental and social determinants. There is a need to

break cycles of deprivation with new models of longer-term support that progress people gain skills, and into sustained work with progression opportunities.

- 2.2 Rising living costs, a tight labour market, persistent skills shortages mean it is more important than ever that people can reach their potential and have access to secure work with fair pay to support job and career progression
- 2.3 The [Employment and Skills Framework](#); skilled people, good jobs and strong business has the ambition that 'everyone has the skills to be able to access good work and is supported to take up training in the workplace that enables progression and development of transferable skills'. The Framework was developed with partners and sets out the key priorities for West Yorkshire. It was published and launched by the Mayor in July 2021
- 2.4 The recently published **Digital Skills Plan** sets out the actions that will be taken to support individuals gain the digital skills required for life and work and that employers have access to a skilled workforce to support innovation and productivity whilst making the best use of funding and resources devolved to the Region through existing programmes including Adult Education Budget and Skills Connect adult training courses.
- 2.5 The **Mayor's Green Jobs Taskforce** is made up of a diverse mix of employers, skills and training providers, and third sector organisations. The Taskforce supports the development of the Mayor's pledge to 'create 1,000 well paid, skilled green jobs for young people', including advising on the establishment of a Mayoral Green Jobs Gateway. The Taskforce has been undertaking research and will report its recommendations early next year in the following areas:
- Create demand and support individuals to access well paid, skilled, green jobs
 - Support the identification of green credentials and adoption of 'green skills' in SMEs, with guidance to access provision.
 - Improve access and provision of skills for individuals starting or progressing in work, seeking work or looking to re-train.
 - Inspiration activities and young people engagement to ensure a future talent pipeline.
 - Ensure a plan for legacy skills.
 - Improve diversity of the workforce and quality of jobs across green industries.
- 2.6 The **West Yorkshire Investment Strategy** includes an Investment Priority for People and Skills, setting out key areas for investment in this area. The Combined Authority has made a notional funding allocation of £21m of devolved gainshare towards this Investment Priority. The key areas for investment are summarised below:

- Improve employment support for individuals furthest from the labour market
- Develop interventions and programmes that engage young people early and prevent them becoming NEET
- Improve access to all age careers information and inspiration that is rooted in local labour market information and reflects the diversity of our Region.
- Programmes and interventions in line with the emerging Digital Skills Plan
- Programmes and interventions that deliver the 'green skills' needed for the economy in West Yorkshire.
- Support productivity and innovation by addressing the low take up of STEM subjects
- Deliver impartial skills support for employers that makes best use of workforce skills, addresses skills shortages, encourages employer investment and workforce planning.
- Support for project development costs as required to progress the Investment Priorities proposed above.

Future Programmes currently in development and / or to commence delivery from 2023

- 2.7. Over the past year working with the Employment and Skills Committee, Local Authorities and key partners the following plan for developing future Employment and Skills programmes has been agreed and is regularly reviewed by the Employment and Skills Committee with oversight for the development of future investment.
- 2.8 To develop our approach, we have held workshops with local authorities, college principals, employers and key stakeholders. This engagement is integral to the design process and will continue as programmes are developed.

Employment West Yorkshire

- 2.9 In October, the Combined Authority approved the £12m Employment West Yorkshire (programme name TBC). This programme will be delivered by Local Authorities and will provide transformational employment support services to 7,700 individuals through a universal, personalised service to individuals to access the employment, skills and training they need towards, into and for progression in work. The programme will commence in April 2023 for two years.

Green Skills

- 2.10 The interventions being developed for green skills will be funded through the Investment Priority for Tackling the Climate Emergency, and Environmental Sustainability and are overseen by the Climate and Environment Committee.

2.11 The following evidence led interventions are currently being developed and will be taken through assurance processes before they are anticipated to be in place by Summer 2023:

- An online Green Jobs Gateway and service for employers looking to offer greener roles, and individuals looking to access these roles and/or develop green skills. The platform will highlight and celebrate green jobs in the region. The platform will allow businesses to make a green jobs pledge – bringing these elements together at a central point for business and individuals and will align to new services such as Employment West Yorkshire and enable individuals to access support to gain employment in the green sector.
- Careers inspiration and information for all ages to inspire and inform individuals from primary age to adulthood about green jobs and careers and changes behaviours and perceptions towards green jobs. This will build on the work of the Green Jobs Summer School that took place this summer in West Yorkshire.
- A development plan and fund to support FE colleges to build capacity within the FE sector and train staff to develop the curriculum aligned to the needs of the green sector.
- An enhancement of the Business Sustainability West Yorkshire Programme that will support employers to identify, access and implement green employment and skills opportunities, transforming their business to support efficiency savings, safeguard jobs and support innovation and productivity.

Creative Skills

2.12 Skills are an essential component of the draft Culture, Heritage and Sport Framework and key to the growth of the creative economy in the region (which will see major 'year of culture' activities in each local authority between 2023-25).

2.13 The Culture Committee has developed a draft Culture Framework, and will oversee a plan of future culture, heritage and sports programmes. This includes an emerging pipeline of interventions are being developed and will be overseen by the Culture, Heritage and Sport Committee. These interventions will make the best use of available resources including the Skills Connect adult training offer, Adult Education Budget and future employment and skills programmes, allied with an allocation from the Culture Gainshare allocation.

Other future programmes

2.14 At its last meeting the Employment and Skills Committee endorsed the development of the interventions to support Young People and skills support for employers and a SME graduate pilot programme. These will be scoped with a range of partners through workshops, presentations and discussion.

No decisions about the content of programmes have been made and they are at an early stage of consultation.

- 2.15 The future interventions will draw on a wide range of evidence and research on what works, learning from the best practice that already exists in the Region and build on its strengths as well as other national and international examples.
- 2.16 Clear outcomes and outputs will be defined for each programme that respond to economic and labour market intelligence whilst meeting the ambitious employment and skills, equality and diversity and environment and sustainability priorities and targets in West Yorkshire.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1. This report outlines proposed interventions to tackle the climate emergency in relation to skills, people and jobs.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1. Skills programmes outlined in this report will work directly with those disproportionately affected in the labour market
- 4.2 Future employment and skills programmes will support inclusive growth across West Yorkshire. We expect to demonstrate progress in the following areas set out in the *Strategic Economic Framework*:
- Percentage qualified below level 2
 - Percentage achieving qualifications at Level 3 & above
 - Percentage achieving higher level skills
 - Percentage attaining basic digital skills
 - Unemployment rate
 - Percentage of employees in quality work
 - Apprenticeship starts
 - Jobs paying below Real Living Wage
 - Employment rate gap for disadvantaged groups
 - Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
 - Output per hour/regional productivity gap

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1. Our skills and workforce pipeline work will consider the impacts on people with protected characteristics. We are seeking to ensure that the skills offer the region has will enable everyone in the region, regardless of their background to have a thriving future. As we develop programmes for delivery, we will work to be explicit in targeting equality and diversity.
- 5.2. The Mayor's SME Graduate Programme will seek to target a range of graduates to increase diversity within SMEs in West Yorkshire. The

programme will work with universities that attract individuals who are first in family to gaining a university education as well as underrepresented groups.

- 5.3. The Green Skills work has been informed by research and consultation including representation from the West Yorkshire Green Skills Youth Programme which engaged with a diverse range of young people from across West Yorkshire. The programme worked with young people from each local authority area and with schools and community organisations that have a high number of students who receive free school meals.
- 5.4. Employment West Yorkshire has targets that include increasing engagement with individuals from underrepresented groups, supporting individuals who lack basic and essential skills and over 50's.
- 5.5. The Digital Skills Plan seeks to directly address socio-economic inequalities facing our population. Digital Inclusion is a central tenet of the plan, to be achieved through the growth of provision of digital skills, supporting the resolution of data poverty and the ongoing challenge of accessibility and connectivity. In line with the Equality Act (2010), diversity will be embedded throughout the Plan's targets.

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. The Committee notes the report and provides any comment.

11. Background Documents

None.

12. Appendices

None



Report to: Economic Scrutiny Committee

Date: 16 November 2022

Subject: **Economic Update**

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

Author: Thomas Newton, Economic Analysis Team Leader

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. To provide the Committee with an update on the economic conditions faced by West Yorkshire residents and businesses in this uncertain economic period.

2. Information

Macroeconomy

- 2.1. At the last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting on 22 September 2022, it was decided by a margin of 5-3-1 to increase the Bank Rate by 0.5 percentage points to 2.25%. 3 members voted for a sharper rise of 0.75 percentage points, whilst one member preferred a 0.25 percentage point rise. This decision was taken in response to the persistent economic pressures within the economy at present, which are forecast to remain in the economy throughout 2023. The outcome of the next MPC meeting will be announced on 3 November, and at the time of writing on 31 October, the markets are anticipating a 0.75 percentage point increase, taking the Bank Rate to 3%.
- 2.2. CPI inflation rose by 10.1% in the 12 months to September, the highest rate for over 40 years. The key price rises came in food and non-alcoholic beverages, which rose by 14.6% in the year to September 2022. Anecdotal evidence suggests that people are substituting out branded food items for supermarket own brand goods, in order to reduce the impact of inflation. However, the average price of the 30 cheapest grocery items has risen by 17% in the past year, and for nine of these 30 items, prices have risen by more than 20%. This means that those who were already buying the cheapest food items are facing higher rates of inflation on food prices than average. The lowest-cost items that saw the biggest price increases over the past year were vegetable oil (65%) and pasta (60%).
- 2.3. Uncertainty within central government in recent weeks has led to the delaying of the Autumn Statement until 17 November, from 31 October. This will follow

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt's reversal of many of the measures announced as part of the Growth Plan. The market responded well to the news that this announcement would be delayed, and it will be accompanied by an economic forecast from the Office of Budget Responsibility. It is expected that many "difficult decisions" will be made around how the government plans to fill a £40 billion hole in public finances.

Regional Data

Households

- 2.4. In order to help with the rising cost of energy, the Government announced the Energy Price Guarantee for households, capping unit costs of electricity and gas at 34.04p per kWh and 10.33p per kWh respectively. This brings average household energy bills to £2,500 per year until at least April 2023. It should be noted that this Energy Price Guarantee still represents a doubling of household energy bills on Winter 2021. Furthermore, households using more than the average amount of energy will still face bills of more than £2,500, and this is likely to disproportionately affect the elderly.
- 2.5. Fuel poverty in West Yorkshire was greater than the national average prior to the pandemic (**17% of West Yorkshire households, compared with 13% nationally**). With standing charges in Yorkshire among the highest in the UK, **simply using less power will not solve the problem for many**. Households in West Yorkshire pay on average 15p per day more in standing charges than those in London. Reducing standing charges to the levels seen in London would save West Yorkshire households a combined £4.5 million per month.
- 2.6. West Yorkshire households are in a worse position to deal with these increased costs for two reasons. Firstly, **dwellings with an EPC rating of C or above are lower in West Yorkshire than nationwide (46.9% compared with 53.8%)**. Secondly, **around 33% of the West Yorkshire population fall within the poorest 20% of neighbourhoods in England**.
- 2.7. Data from the End Fuel Poverty Coalition, a campaign group including trade union and think tank members, estimates that as many as 300,000 West Yorkshire households, or 30%, of homes will be in fuel poverty on 1 October 2022. By 1 April 2023, forecasts suggest that this figure may have risen to 330,000, or 1 in 3, West Yorkshire homes.

Businesses

- 2.8. The Combined Authority has recently surveyed 1,000 West Yorkshire-based businesses with BMG Research to understand business sentiment in the current economic climate. The key results are:
 - **41% of businesses believe that their performance has improved over the past 12 months**. This was most evident in the financial sector, where 52% of businesses have seen an improvement. This is likely to reflect lower levels of volatility, now that Covid-19-related loans have started to be paid

back. This allows the financial sector to be better informed about levels of loan defaults.

- **43% of businesses expect the business climate to remain as it currently is, whilst 30% expect it to worsen.** This outlook is more negative than the sentiment expressed during the pandemic. Among the most pessimistic were those in the catering and accommodation industries (48% expecting the business climate to get worse), which are more likely to be hardest hit by food and energy price inflation.
- The two main barriers to growth cited by businesses were decline in demand (17%) and availability of skilled labour (16%).
- **30% expect to increase employment levels,** whilst only 5% expect employment levels to decrease. This expectation aligns with job vacancy data, with strong vacancy growth across all local authorities and key occupations within West Yorkshire over the previous months. 42% of transport companies expect to increase employment levels, and there is evidence that this demand is present within the economy now. In the three months to August 2022, there were around 2,000 jobs advertised in the land transport sector, with only the NHS posting more vacancies within the period than the HGV Training Network.
- **30% of respondents expect their wage bill to remain the same over the next 12 months.** Of the 66% that expect their wage bill to increase, over half anticipate wage increases of less than 10%. Firms in the transport and storage sector were the most likely to be anticipating inflation-beating wage rises, reflecting the relative difficulty in recruitment within the sector.
- **69% expect the prices they charge to customers to increase over the next 12 months.** Over half (51%) expect that price increase to be between 5 and 10%. Sentiment most prevalent in the manufacturing and construction sectors, largely driven by rising input prices.

2.9. The Combined Authority has also commissioned research on the cost of doing business from Yonder, which shows that **67% of businesses are concerned about the survival of their business** as a result of the cost-of-living crisis. This concern was most greatly felt among small and micro businesses. Other key findings include:

- Around half (44%) of businesses feel that the current Government support package, the Business Energy Relief Scheme, makes no difference to them in trying to ease the financial challenge of the energy crisis.
- 56% of businesses said that they were not planning on increasing wages over the next 6 to 12 months. With inflation expected to remain high throughout 2023, this poses a significant threat to the quality of life in Yorkshire.

- 2.10. The Government's Business Energy Relief Scheme caps the unit cost of gas and electricity for businesses at the same rates faced by households, and will run until the end of March 2023, though this will be reviewed by the end of 2022. It could then be extended for vulnerable businesses such as the hospitality sector. The support announced for businesses is unclear with significant uncertainty for businesses and other organisations (e.g. councils) beyond the six months support confirmed.
- 2.11. There are 1,751 firms in West Yorkshire that are both energy intensive and operating in internationally competitive markets. Most of these are operating in the manufacturing sector. Due to the requirements around data reporting for businesses, it is not possible to provide accurate employee numbers or turnover, but a conservative estimate for these businesses most at risk are 57,000 employees and £8 billion in turnover.
- 2.12. For those at an enhanced risk of rising energy prices, those who are exposed to internationally competitive markets but do not meet intensity thresholds, there are an additional 6,266 firms in West Yorkshire, again covering much of the manufacturing sector. The same data restrictions apply to employee counts and turnover figures, but conservative estimates place these at 147,000 employees and over £20 billion in turnover.

Labour Market

- 2.13. Employment levels within West Yorkshire have continued to increase, however compared to pre-pandemic levels, the number of people on in-work Universal Credit has climbed significantly.
- 2.14. Job postings in September 2022 are almost 30% higher than September 2021. Nationally, vacancy levels are higher than unemployment levels. The sectoral mix of job postings points to some of the challenges hospitality is dealing with, as vacancies are declining in that sector, whilst increasing sharply in the IT sector.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1. Fuel use increases over the Winter due to colder temperatures. West Yorkshire homes are less likely to have an EPC rating of C+, meaning that the region is more likely to need to use energy for heating. Analysis by the Resolution Foundation suggests it costs 58% more to heat a home rated as EPC D or lower, than it does C or above.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1. According to the Resolution Foundation, lower-income households will have to reduce non-essential spending by three times as much as higher-income households to afford essential bills such as energy. West Yorkshire has a higher share of people in lower-income households, suggesting that spending will be cut significantly more across West Yorkshire than other areas.

- 4.2. Wages are already struggling to keep pace with inflation (median wages have increased by 7%, meanwhile inflation is above 10%). As of 17 August, the UK Government has not indicated that benefit payments (in and out of work) will be increased in-line with inflation. Therefore, many families will be facing real-term cuts in their household incomes (from wages and benefits). West Yorkshire has a higher percentage of people claiming out-of-work benefits compared to the national average (4.8% compared to 3.7%). West Yorkshire also has a higher percentage of people claiming in-work benefits compared to the national average (8.6% compared to 7.7%).

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

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

7. Legal Implications

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

8. Staffing Implications

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

9. External Consultees

- 9.1. No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1. That the Committee notes the report and provides any comment.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

None.

Report to:	Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	16 November 2022
Subject:	Economy Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

Director:	Angela Taylor, Director of Corporate & Commercial Services
Author:	Hannah Scales, Scrutiny Support Officer

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To note the Economy Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23.
- 1.2 To consider any additional agenda items, formal referrals to scrutiny, reviews, call in, and any other tasks, issues or matters the Committee resolves to undertake or consider further.

2. Information

Economy Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

- 2.1 The Work Programme (**Appendix 1**) is set at the beginning of the year and considered at each meeting where it can be amended and changed as the year progresses. It outlines the work the Economy Scrutiny Committee has agreed to undertake, investigate, and focus on in the municipal year (June 2022 – June 2023) within the resources, remit, and powers available.

Referrals to scrutiny

- 2.2 Under Scrutiny Standing Order 7, any Scrutiny Member, any Combined Authority Member, or any elected Member of a West Yorkshire council (or the City of York Council) may formally refer a matter to the Committee for consideration. The referral must be in writing to the Statutory Scrutiny Officer. The Committee must then consider and discuss the referral and respond to the referrer explaining whether it will consider the matter further and why.
- 2.3 There are no formal referrals for this committee to consider.

Key decisions and call in

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

Actions for Scrutiny Officers

- 2.8 As outlined in Scrutiny Standing Order 17, scrutiny officers provide support to a scrutiny committee's work programme and all scrutiny members in exercising their scrutiny duties and fulfilling their objectives.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

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

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

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

5. Financial Implications

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

6. Legal Implications

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

7. Staffing Implications

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

8. External Consultees

8.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

9. Recommendations

9.1 To note or amend the Economy Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23.

10. Background Documents

[Key Decision Forward Plans – 2022/23](#)

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Joint Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

Appendix 2 – Forward Plan of Key Decisions (October 2022)

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Scrutiny Work Programmes 2022/23

Summary of main topics and meeting dates

Committee	Topic areas	Meetings
Corporate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inflation, Budget and Gainshare Staffing (incl recruitment & retention) Accommodation and other corporate projects (incl ICS, Cyber Security, social value in procurement) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23 September 2022 18 November 2022 (Mayors Question Time) 20 January 2023 10 March 2023
Transport & Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Active Travel Decarbonisation and Behaviour Change Freight, Waterways & Rail Consultation and Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22 September 2022 17 November 2022 19 January 2023 (Mayors Question Time) 9 March 2023
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The state of the region's economy Cost of Living crisis Skills and the Adult Education Budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 September 2022 16 November 2022 18 January 2023 15 March 2023 (Mayors Question Time)
<i>All Committees</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayors Pledges Work Programme 	

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Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Meetings	Topics	Attendees	Objectives
23 September 2022	Inflation & Budgets	<i>Director of Corporate</i>	Discuss the impact of inflation on strategy, projects and finances and what plans and measures are in place to mitigate the issue.
	Update – Social Value in Procurement	<i>Head of Procurement</i>	Update (from March 2022 meeting): to better understand the principles, practice and examples of social value in procurement and suppliers.
18 November 2022	Mayor’s Question Time	<i>Mayor Tracy Brabin & Chief Executive</i>	Question the Mayor on matters pertaining to corporate scrutiny since her last attendance in November 2021.
20 January 2023	Staffing (incl recruitment & retention)	<i>Head of HR</i>	Expand on the discussion at the March 2022 meeting, and explore the CA’s current strategy and workstreams regarding the workforce and what extent the challenges, including around recruitment and retention, are being addressed.
	Draft Budget 2023/24	<i>Director of Corporate</i>	Scrutinise the draft budget 2023/24, especially with regards to risk management, safeguards and ‘Plan Bs’ with regards to expected inflation and economic conditions.
	Update - Assurance Framework	<i>Head of Portfolio Management</i>	Consider changes to the Assurance Framework during its annual review, especially with regards to current economic pressures on capital projects.
10 March 2023	Wellington House Refurbishment Project	<i>Director of Corporate</i>	Using the accommodation project as a case study into the authority’s project management performance and principles – and consider whether the project achieved its goals, added value and performed well.
	Update – Integrated Corporate System	<i>Director of Corporate</i>	Update (from March 2022): on project development and progress
	Update – Cyber Security	<i>Head of ICT</i>	Update (from March 2022): on developments and progress
Workshops (dates TBC)	Workforce and staffing	<i>Head of HR</i>	Receive update on staffing issues since March 2022 and determine scope of January 2023 meeting’s discussion.
	Budget and Gainshare	<i>Head of Finance</i>	Consider budget 23/24 and Gainshare plans – with particular attention to inflation and economic conditions and risk management.

Transport & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee

Meetings	Topics	Attendees	Objectives
22 September 2022	Update – Bus Service Improvement Plan <i>(with focus on real time information)</i>	<i>Director of Transport Services & RTI System Manager</i> --- <i>Dr Ben Hanson, Leeds University</i>	Monitor progress of Bus Service Improvement Plan (since November 2021) with particular attention to Flexi Bus Scheme and Real Time Information systems.
17 November 2022	Decarbonisation	<i>Director of Transport Services & Director of Transport Policy</i> <i>Poss: Delivery, Strategy officers</i> --- <i>Mott Macdonald report authors</i>	Understand and identify <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. issues raised in the Mott Macdonald report and what has changed since, in terms of actions and strategies. 2. CA's direct purview/control and what can it influence indirectly. 3. possible solutions, including strategic gaps in CA decarbonisation activity e.g. waterways and inland ports, rail freight, PLVs/e-bikes, motorbikes, etc.
19 January 2023	Mayor's Question Time	<i>Mayor Tracy Brabin & Chief Executive</i>	Question the Mayor on matters pertaining to transport and infrastructure scrutiny since her last attendance in January 2022.
9 March 2023	Consultations and Planning	<i>Director of Transport Services</i>	Review consultation and planning processes and whether they sufficiently consider transport links and infrastructure, and whether they take into account the views of residents (especially on active travel)
	Update – Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)	<i>Director of Transport Services</i>	Update (since September 2022): on improvement of real time information system accuracy, engagement with bus companies on data and service cuts, and future of bus funding.
Workshops or other updates (dates TBC)	Bus Service Cuts	<i>Director of Transport Services</i>	Consider recently announced bus service cuts by regional bus operators and plans to lessen the impact on residents
	Update – Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) and Rail Reforms	<i>Director of Transport Services</i>	Update (since March 2022): on plans to develop mass transit system for WY and impact and progress of rail reforms
	Active Travel	<i>Director of Transport Services</i>	Update on active travel progress and plans, with particular attention on disability access, consultations and public opinion, and e-bikes
	Behaviour Change		Expand on Behaviour Change session at March 2022 meeting and discuss progress and plans on decarbonisation and active travel, including:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carbon emission targets• 'Low Traffic Neighbourhoods',• 'the last mile'• possibility and accessibility of e-bikes• Active travel• 'Nudge Unit' and 'Tyndall Manchester' research on influencing behaviour change
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Economy Scrutiny Committee

Meetings	Topics	Attendees	Objectives
21 September 2022	Update – The state of the economy and cost of living crisis	<i>Head of Economic Policy Research & Intelligence</i>	Update on the state of the economy and cost of living crisis, with some attention to impact of Brexit, inflation, cost of living crisis, and skills.
16 November 2022	Adult Education Budget (AEB) and Labour Market Assessment	<i>Head of Employment and Skills Research & Intelligence Head of Economic Policy</i>	Explore current labour conditions and how new powers and funding from the Adult Education Budget (AEB) meets the short term and long term needs – with particular focus on if AEB to FE providers has been well spent, what success looks like and how we compare to other regions.
18 January 2023	<i>To be confirmed</i>		
15 March 2023	Mayor’s Question Time	<i>Mayor Tracy Brabin & Chief Executive</i>	Question the Mayor on matters pertaining to economy scrutiny since her last attendance in March 2022.
Workshops (dates TBC)	TBC		<i>Consider whether the £6 million of capital grants to manufacturers (for procurement of machinery etc.) is giving a tangible return on the investment.</i>

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Forward Plan of Key Decisions from 1 November 2022

Title	Description	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Lead Director	Officer Contact
West Yorkshire Combined Authority					
85 European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) – Sustainable Urban Development (SUD)	To consider and subsequently approve applications for Sustainable Urban Development, to support the delivery of European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy and the Strategic Economic Plan.	West Yorkshire Combined Authority	Between 29 Jul 2021 and 23 Jun 2022		Heather Waddington heather.waddington@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Adoption of Shared Transport Strategy	<p>The Shared Transport Strategy (formerly the Future Mobility Strategy) has been developed to support the delivery of the West Yorkshire Transport Strategy 2040 and Connectivity Infrastructure Plan.</p> <p>The updated Shared Transport Strategy is now presented for adoption by the Mayor and the Combined Authority as part of the West</p>	West Yorkshire Combined Authority	17 Mar 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk

Title	Description	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	Yorkshire Transport Strategy 2040, the statutory Local Transport Plan.				
Adoption of Connectivity Infrastructure Plan	That the Mayor and the Combined Authority adopts the Connectivity Infrastructure Plan as part of the West Yorkshire Transport Strategy 2040, the statutory Local Transport Plan.	West Yorkshire Combined Authority	17 Mar 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Corridor Improvement Programme: Bradford - A6177 and Cutler Heights	Approval for the scheme to progress through Activity 3 (Outline Business Case)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority	23 Jun 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Leeds Year of Culture 2023.	Approval for the scheme to progress through Activity 2 (Strategic Outline Case)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority	22 Jul 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Bus funding and budgets	To consider budget provision for bus services	West Yorkshire Combined Authority	9 Sep 2022		Angela Taylor angela.taylor@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Bradford City Centre Cycling and Walking Improvements	Approval for the scheme to progress through to Activity 3 (Outline Business Case) and work to commence on Activity 4 (Full Business Case)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority	8 Dec 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk

Title	Description	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Lead Director	Officer Contact
British Library North	Change Request in relation to timescales, scope and development funding	West Yorkshire Combined Authority	8 Dec 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Business Sustainability Package	Approval for the scheme to proceed through decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and decision point 4 (full business case) and proceed to activity 5 (delivery)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority	8 Dec 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
97 Inflation: Transport Programmes	Revising the funding allocations for schemes within West Yorkshire Transport Fund, Transforming Cities Fund and City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement programmes.	West Yorkshire Combined Authority	8 Dec 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Combined Assets Database (CoSa) Replacement	Approval for the scheme to proceed through decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and for work to commence on the business justification case	West Yorkshire Combined Authority	8 Dec 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Climate, Energy and Environment Committee					

Title	Description	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Employment and Skills Committee					
Transport Committee					
Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme (LPTIP) Review Part 4	Approval of the reprofiling of the Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme, a £173.5m transport programme funded by the Department for Transport. Approval of the allocation of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's £1m contribution to the Programme.	Transport Committee	14 Oct 2022	Director of Transport Services	Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Bus Service Improvement Plan	Approval for the scheme to proceed through decision point 2 (strategic outline case), for work to commence on activity 5 (delivery) for the Mayor's Fares scheme, and for work to commence on activity 2 (strategic outline case) for the remaining programmes and schemes.	Transport Committee	18 Nov 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
West Bradford Cycle	Approval for the scheme to	Transport	14 Dec 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-

Title	Description	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Superhighway Extension	proceed through decision point 3 (outline business case) and for work to commence on activity 4 (full business case)	Committee			ca.gov.uk
Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee					
Brownfield Housing Fund - Cow Green - Calderdale	Approval for the scheme to progress through Activity 3 (Outline Business Case)	Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee	7 Feb 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Brownfield Housing Fund - Estates Building - Kirklees	Approval for the scheme to progress through Activity 3 (Outline Business Case)	Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee	7 Feb 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Brownfield Housing Fund - Brick Street Westgate Cleckheaton - Kirklees	Approval for the scheme to progress through Activity 3 (Outline Business Case)	Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee	7 Feb 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Brownfield Housing Fund - Manchester Road – Bradford	Approval for the scheme to progress through Activity 4 (Full Business Case)	Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee	7 Feb 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk

Title	Description	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme (LPTIP) Review Part 3	Approval of the reprofiling of the Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme, a £173.5m transport programme funded by Department for Transport.	Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee	7 Feb 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Transforming Cities Fund – A64 Bus Cycle Walking Improvements	Approval for the scheme to progress through Activity 3 (Outline Business Case)	Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee	8 Mar 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
A62 to Cooper Bridge Corridor Improvement Scheme	Approval for the scheme to progress through Activity 3 (Outline Business Case) and work commence on Activity 4 (Full Business Case).	Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee	20 Apr 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
BHF Cow Green - Calderdale	Approval for the scheme to progress through Activity 3 (Outline Business Case) and work commence on Activity 4 (Full Business Case).	Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee	1 Sep 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Leeds Village	Approval for the scheme to progress through Activity 3 (Outline Business Case) and work commence on Activity 4 (Full Business Case).	Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee	1 Sep 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Leeds Kirkstall Road	Approval for the scheme to	Place,	3 Nov 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-

Title	Description	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Residential	progress through to Activity 3 (Outline Business Case) and work to commence through to Activity 4 (Full Business Case.)	Regeneration and Housing Committee			ca.gov.uk
Broadband Contract 3	Change Request to reduce total scheme costs by £3,610,653.	Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee	3 Nov 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Finance, Resources & Corporate Committee					
Officer delegated decisions					
Transport Fund: A629 Phase 5	Approval for the scheme to progress through Activity 4 (Full Business Case).	Managing Director	16 Jul 2021		Caroline Coy caroline.coy@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Adult Skills Training Framework	To approve the use of funding through Combined Authority Gainshare funding to deliver adult training to individuals across West Yorkshire.		16 Jul 2021		Michelle Hunter michelle.hunter@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
West Yorkshire Integrated UTMC	Change Request	Managing Director	19 Nov 2021		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk

Title	Description	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Lead Director	Officer Contact
92 Contract Award: CA1538 – West Yorkshire Mass Transit Network: Business Case Development Partner	To award and enter into a Contract with TBC for the provision of a Business Case Development Partner(s) across three Lots: Lot 1 - Business Case Development; Funding Bid Development; Transport Modelling; Economic / Carbon Appraisal; Expert Witness Lot 2 - Stakeholder Management, Consultation, Engagement and Objection Management Lot 3 - Client Side Management		7 Jan 2022		Tom Gifford tom.gifford@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
GBF Bradford One City Park	Approval for the scheme to progress through Activity 5 (Full Business Case) and work commence on Activity 6 (Delivery).	Managing Director	25 Feb 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Corridor Improvement Programme: Dyneley Arms, Leeds	Approval for the scheme to progress through Activity 5 (Full Business Case with finalised costs) and work	Managing Director	8 Apr 2022		James Bennett james.bennett@westyorks-ca.gov.uk

Title	Description	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	commence on Activity 6 (Delivery)				
Transforming Travel Centres	Approval for the scheme to progress through decision point 4 (full business case) and for work to commence on activity 5 (delivery).		22 Apr 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
93 Wakefield SEN Taxi & Minibus Contracts 2022-23	To procure a batch of contracts commissioned on behalf of Wakefield District Council for taxi and minibus operators to provide home to school transport for pupils with special education needs and disabilities. The total value of awards will be in the region of £2.5m and these costs will be covered in full by WDC.	Director of Transport Services	10 May 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Wakefield Bus Tender Awards - Batch 706	To award bus contracts in the Wakefield area		24 Jun 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Adult Education Budget – Strategy Revisions	1 Expanding the age of entitlement for a ‘first full level 2’ from 19-23 to 19+ 2 Expanding the ‘Digital Entitlement’ to ensure digital skills for all		20 Jul 2022		Lindsey Daniels

Title	Description	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	3 Test Pilot: Bridging programmes that support progression to Level 3 4 Test Pilot: Increasing the number of courses 19-23s are entitled to				
Leeds City Centre Network and Interchange Package - City Square Plus	Approval for the scheme to progress through Activity 4 (Full Business Case)		22 Jul 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
Corridor Improvement Programme - Leeds - Fink Hill	Approval for the scheme to progress through Activity 5 (full business case with finalised costs) and to proceed to delivery.		5 Aug 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
National Skills Fund: Free Courses for Jobs – New Provider Allocations	Approval is sought to issue allocations to newly procured providers for the Free Courses for Jobs 2022/23 funding, following an open and competitive tender process		2 Sep 2022		Lindsey Daniels
Bradford to Shipley Corridor	To enable development work to continue on the scheme to deliver improvements to the Manningham Lane and Canal Road routes between Bradford city centre and	Managing Director	28 Oct 2022		Freedom.Info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk

Title	Description	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	Shipley, including the provision of bus lanes, cycle lanes and a 30mph speed limit as a sustainable transport corridor along the Manningham Lane, along with improvements to junctions along Canal Road and Otley Road.				
UKSPF Multiply – Local Authority Grant Agreements 22-23	Approval is sought to issue grant agreements to the five West Yorkshire Local Authorities for the UKSPF Multiply funding provision		11 Nov 2022		Lindsey Daniels

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