

# **LEEDS CITY REGION ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY  
2021**

**DUE TO COVID-19, THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD REMOTELY AND  
WILL BE LIVESTREAMED HERE:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCazjNSGpqZZT41Vibn2ZK9A/live>  
(COPY AND PASTE THE LINK IN YOUR BROWSER)**

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

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

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

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

### **4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2021**

(Pages 1 - 10)

### **5. ECONOMIC REPORTING**

(Led by: Alan Reiss, Author: James Hopton)

(Pages 11 - 46)

### **6. COVID-19: ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESPONSE**

(Led by: Brian Archer, Author: Ian Smyth)

(Pages 47 - 54)

## **7. PANEL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **(a) PLACE PANEL**

(Led by: Cllr Tim Swift)

(Pages 55 - 58)

### **(b) LEP CAPITAL PROGRAMME (INVESTMENT COMMITTEE)**

(Led by: Melanie Corcoran)

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## **8. COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY - ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

(Led by: Alan Reiss, Author: Sarah Bowes)

(Pages 67 - 72)

## **9. EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS PLAN REFRESH**

(Led by: Alan Reiss, Author: Sonya Midgley)

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## **10. INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

(Led by: Alan Reiss, Author: James Flanagan)

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## **11. LEP BUDGETS AND FUNDING**

(Led by: Angela Taylor, Author: Angela Taylor)

(Pages 199 - 206)

## **12. GOVERNANCE REPORT**

(Led by: Angela Taylor, Author: Angie Shearon)

(Pages 207 - 210)

### **For Information**

## **13. CONNECTIVITY PLAN**

(Led by: Alan Reiss, Author: Tom Gifford)

(Pages 211 - 216)

## **14. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2021**

(Pages 217 - 232)

## **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 28 April 2021



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEEDS CITY REGION ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD REMOTELY ON WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2021

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### **Present:**

Roger Marsh OBE DL (Chair)  
Prof Shirley Congdon  
Helen Featherstone  
Kate Hainsworth

Amir Hussain  
Rashik Parmar MBE

Professor Simon Pringle  
Kamran Rashid  
Mandy Ridyard  
Mark Roberts  
Joanna Robinson  
Kully Thiarai  
Andrew Wright

Councillor Judith Blake CBE  
Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe  
Councillor Denise Jeffery  
Councillor Shabir Pandor  
Councillor Tim Swift MBE

Private sector member & LEP Chair  
FE & HE representative  
Private sector member  
Private sector member & LEP Diversity  
Champion  
Private sector member  
Private sector member & Chair,  
Employment & Skills Panel  
Private sector member  
Private sector member  
Private sector member  
Private sector member  
Private sector member  
Private sector member & Chair, Business  
Innovation & Growth Panel  
Leeds City Council  
Bradford Council  
Wakefield Council  
Kirklees Council  
Calderdale Council

### **In attendance:**

Councillor Andrew Waller  
Tom Riordan  
Peter Mucklow  
Ben Still  
Caroline Allen  
Brian Archer  
Melanie Corcoran  
Alan Reiss  
Angela Taylor  
Ian Smyth  
Sarah Bowes  
Alexander Clarke  
James Flanagan  
Ruth Chaplin

City of York Council  
Leeds City Council  
LEP Senior Sponsor  
LEP/West Yorkshire Combined Authority  
LEP/West Yorkshire Combined Authority  
LEP/West Yorkshire Combined Authority  
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## **62. Chair's Comments**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new year and advised the Board that the West Yorkshire devolution order had been approved by the House of Commons. This was a significant step and would now be laid in the House of Lords with a view to the deal becoming law.

The Board passed on their good wishes and congratulations to Councillor Judith Blake on being selected to become a Peer in the House of Lords. In response, Councillor Blake thanked the Chair for his kind comments and looked forward to continue working with the LEP when she takes up her seat later in the year.

## **63. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **64. Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with the requirements of the LEP Board Members' Code of Conduct, Members were reminded of their obligations to review their individual register of interests before each LEP Board meeting and to declare any interests.

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

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

## **66. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2020**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2020 be approved.

## **67. Covid-19: Response and Recovery**

The Board considered a report of the Director, Economic Services which provided an update on developments around the COVID-19 crisis, including economic intelligence.

Members were given a presentation which highlighted the challenges and provided the latest information on the delivery and development of products and services.

An update on the latest activity and intelligence was outlined in the report although it was recognised that full data is not yet available to understand the period following the end of November's lockdown and the restrictions currently in place. The latest COVID-19 insights report was attached at Appendix 1.

It was noted that a review of the Economic Recovery Plan (ERP) was being undertaken because of the changes and the further impacts on the economy since its adoption in September 2020. Work was continuing on implementing elements of the ERP within existing resources as the Comprehensive Spending Review in November did not provide detail of any Government funding to support the delivery of regional economic recovery plans. It was reported that at their meeting in November, the Combined Authority had approved £13.5 million to fund two partnership programmes from the ERP enabling the existing [re]boot and Employment Hub programmes to be extended. A submission will be made to inform the Budget currently scheduled for March 2021, highlighting the key aspects of the ERP that cannot be progressed within current resources.

**Resolved:** That the latest update around the economic impacts of COVID-19 and progress on the delivery and development of the response to the crisis, including on the Economic Recovery Plan, be noted.

## **68. EU Exit**

The Board considered a report of the Director, Policy, Strategy and Communications which provided an update on the EU exit, including the implications of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

Members were given a presentation which outlined the key headline implications of the Agreement and the impact on key sectors. It was noted that work is ongoing to understand the core text and full implications for the Leeds City Region.

Members discussed and welcomed the support being provided as many businesses were finding it difficult to understand the changes. At their recent meeting, the Business Communications Group had also welcomed the support but had raised concerns about the large number of complex enquiries relating to imports. It was recognised that the volume of EU Exit-related enquiries was rising and some required specialist support because they were complex. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) had allocated c.£250,000 to assist in the delivery of business support up to 31 March 2021. The LEP has appointed Enterprise Growth Solutions (EGS) to deliver an EU Exit support service which will provide advice via a team of experts and this facility will be initially available until the end of March 2021. The LEP was also supporting the West and North Yorkshire Chambers of Commerce to build capacity to provide specialist advice on the new import and export documentation and regulatory requirements and, in partnership with York and North Yorkshire LEP an outreach service was being provided for support to businesses. It was also proposed to appoint two delivery partners to provide advice with legal and finance issues related to EU Exit and it was expected that additional support in respect of marketing and communications would be provided in the near future.

It was noted that as a result of the EU-UK Agreement further financial resources may be required to support businesses in maximising the

opportunities and minimising any potential negative impacts of the deal's implementation. This would be subject to further analysis and intelligence relating to key issues.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the initial analysis of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement be noted.
- (ii) That the activity being undertaken in terms of business support with businesses in the Leeds City Region be noted.

**69. Comprehensive Spending Review**

The Board considered a report of the Director, Policy, Strategy and Communications which provided information on the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) following the announcement by Government on 25 November 2020.

It was noted that the CSR was set for one year, 2021-22 and a summary of the Chancellor's announcements and the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecast was attached at Appendix 1. It was reported that the CSR did not mention mayoral capacity funding or funding for LEPs and Growth Hubs or extension to the Local Growth Fund and further information would be provided to the LEP Board when it becomes available. The report outlined the elements of the CSR which may align with the Combined Authority's and LEP's economic recovery priorities of good jobs and resilient businesses, skills and training and accelerated infrastructure and proposals are being brought forward for funding the plans from local devolved funding where available. There had also been no announcement of additional funding for local economic recovery plans although there may be opportunities to fund some of the priorities detailed in the Economic Recovery Plan. It was reported that the Build Back Better Council had been launched, bringing together business leaders from across the country to work in partnership with the Government to unlock investment, boost job creation and level up the whole of the UK. The Council had 30 members and the Board expressed their disappointment that the North were not well represented on the new body and consideration would be given as to how this may be addressed.

**Resolved:** That the elements of the Spending Review as they may be seen to align with the Combined Authority's and LEP's economic recovery priorities be noted.

**70. Panel and Committee Reports**

The Board discussed and noted the Panel reports which were presented for information.

It was reported that the Business Innovation and Growth Panel had met on 24 November 2020 and the Board noted the significant areas of activity which had

been discussed at the meeting.

The Employment and Skills Panel had met on 25 November 2020 and had discussed a range of initiatives including progress towards devolution of the Adult Education Budget and details were outlined in the submitted report. A refresh of the Employment & Skills Plan was being undertaken and a report would be brought to the next meeting.

The last meeting of the Green Economy Panel had been held on 18 November 2020 and the Board noted the report which outlined the work being undertaken in several areas including the Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways study.

The LEP Capital Programme (Investment Committee) report provided updates of the progress made on the implementation of the LEP Capital Programme for 2020/21 and the Growth Deal including the current overprogramming, the Getting Building Fund, the Growth Deal Business Support Programme and the Transport Fund.

The Board discussed the recent work of the Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel particularly in respect of the Inclusive Growth Framework, support for the region's Third Sector and a Good Work Standard for the Region. Members welcomed the work of the Panel and supported the proposed next steps which were summarised in the submitted report.

The Panel Chairs were thanked for their updates.

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

## **71. Inclusive Growth Framework**

The Board considered a report of the Director, Policy, Strategy and Communications on the Inclusive Growth Framework.

It was reported that a draft Inclusive Growth Framework had been developed by the Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel to promote well-being, the acquisition of relevant and transferable skills, inclusive digital and transport connectivity and good work for everyone, with a view to delivering an inclusive economic recovery.

The draft Framework was attached at Appendix 1. Members welcomed the clarity of its goals and ambitions and had a detailed discussion on the development and importance of a strategic regional approach to inclusive growth. They considered the key issues outlined in paragraph 2.13 of the submitted report and Members were thanked for their valuable comments which included:

- The need for Inclusive Growth to be fully embedded into the region's assurance framework to ensure all funded interventions drive inclusive outcomes and equality.
- Recognition of the key role of the third sector, working with the public

- and private sectors, in ensuring an inclusive economic recovery.
- Support for the working indicator set shown at Appendix 2, with proposals to include healthy years of life as a key measure of progress, consider an “early years” wellbeing measure, and compare the proposed indicators against World Happiness Report indicators.
- Within each headline indicator, there is also a need to understand the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on specific affected groups, eg youth unemployment.
- There was strong support expressed for the proposed interventions shown at Appendix 3, with a shared view that ambition should be further increased, including in terms of:
  - Additional support for specific proposed interventions, such as to promote digital inclusion;
  - Prioritising ‘early win’ interventions, in order to maximise impact, and identify and address any barriers, eg to regional third sector engagement;
  - Ensuring that there is sufficient LEP capacity in place to translate the high level proposals into delivery;
  - Building on what is already being done locally and to communicate this effectively; and
  - Ensuring that the Inclusive Growth agenda is also strongly promoted by the other LEP agendas, including Business, Innovation & Skills, Green Economy, Housing & Place, and Employment & Skills.

It was therefore recognised that the Framework will need to strongly shape and inform the ongoing work of the Panels and Committees through the work of proposed Inclusive Growth Champions. It was also agreed that a section for ‘Inclusive Growth Implications’ should be included in future LEP Board and Panel reports.

Resolved:

- (i) That the LEP Board endorse the Inclusive Growth Framework for adoption as part of the wider Strategic Economic Framework.
- (ii) That ‘Inclusive Growth Implications’ be considered in future LEP Board and Panel reports.

## **72. Innovation Framework**

The Board considered a report of the Director, Policy, Strategy and Communications on the Innovation Framework.

The report provided an update on the development of the Leeds City Region Innovation Framework and the draft document was attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report. Members discussed and supported the overarching vision and 11 priorities of the draft Innovation Framework which will guide future activity and investment across all partners in Leeds City Region. The Business Communications Group had discussed and supported the Framework and had highlighted that many business were having to be



innovative because of the current economic situation. The following further comments were made:

- Focus on decarbonisation/green as well as health
- Need to work with schools
- The Framework should be accessible and kept simple
- Better signposting is needed on the website

Members were advised that the West Yorkshire Innovation Festival was to be held during the week commencing 15 March 2021 and anyone interested in participating should contact the LEP.

The draft Innovation Framework will be considered by the Combined Authority on 4 February 2021.

**Resolved:** That the LEP Board endorse the overarching vision and priorities of the Innovation Framework and recommend its adoption to the Combined Authority as part of the Strategic Economic Framework.

### **73. Digital Board**

The Board considered a report of the Director, Policy Strategy and Communications which provided an update on the Digital Board.

The report set out progress on activities to support digital transformation and the work being undertaken to deliver the Digital Framework, as overseen by the Digital Board.

It was noted that the Digital Board prepared a proposal for priority action areas to support rescue and recovery which is set out in the Economic Recovery Plan and Lives Transformed by Digital Tech proposition. The outcome of the funding ask of Government was awaited but the proposition is aimed at ensuring everyone can reap the benefits of digital technology as the economy begins to recover. The Comprehensive Spending Review 2020 set out a number of commitments around digital tech and these were outlined in Appendix 1.

Mandy Ridyard provided an update on the work of the Local Digital Skills Partnership which was formally launched in October 2020. Members were also advised that the University of Leeds, in partnership with the LEP, had been successful in securing funding to develop a regional space strategy. A steering group, chaired by Mandy Ridyard, had been established and she gave an overview of the work being done to identify local capabilities and develop a unique proposition through a regional action plan.

**Resolved:** That the activities underway and progress to deliver against the Leeds City Region Digital Framework be noted.

#### **74. Strategic Rail Update**

The Board considered a report of the Director, Policy, Strategy and Communications on strategic rail matters affecting the City Region.

Members were given a presentation by Mark Roberts who was the LEP's representative on the Transport Committee and Transport for the North (TfN). He provided an update on developments in respect of several rail issues including HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail and the Rail Needs Assessment.

The Board discussed the Rail Needs Assessment which had been published by the National Infrastructure Commission. The West Yorkshire Leaders had written to the Secretary of State for Transport to express their extreme disappointment that the report failed to sufficiently address the economic consequences of the rail projects for the region. Whilst there was a focus on regional connectivity, it was considered to be insufficient to address the levelling up agenda for the North and that the region's long-awaited rail schemes were being compromised because of other projects such as HS2 going over budget. It was considered important for freight to be included particularly because of the congestion it can cause on the network.

It was reported that an initial preferred Northern Powerhouse Rail network had been endorsed by the TfN and they would submit the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) in Spring 2021.

Members were asked to provide any further comments or feedback to Mark Roberts or Liz Hunter, Head of Transport Policy.

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

#### **75. Business Planning and Budget 2021/22**

The Board considered a report of the Director, Corporate Services which provided the draft corporate business plan on a page and information on the budget for 2021/22.

Members noted the work being undertaken to develop next year's business plan and associated budget and the need to take into account factors where there remains uncertainty. These included the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU exit, the ending of the Growth Deal funding programme and the ongoing work to become a mayoral combined authority. In respect of the Growth Deal funding programme, it was understood from the November budget that there will be no further funding specifically available only to LEPs. The £4 billion levelling up fund announced will be open to LEPs, combined authorities and local authorities and details of how to apply are expected in the near future. It was noted that the LEP network was pressing Government on the lack of forward funding for LEPs which was major concern in terms of how the LEP can deliver its objectives, particularly with regard to the regional economic recovery from the pandemic. This would also be raised at the Annual Performance Review with officials from the Department for Business,

Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) which was to take place on 27 January 2021.

The budget will be accompanied by business plans for each directorate and these had been summarised as an individual plan on a page which was attached as a draft at Appendix 1. It was acknowledged that because of the above mentioned factors, there was significant risk and uncertainty that needs to be taken into account in the budget setting process and some flexibility would need to be built into the business plans. A report would be prepared for a future meeting once the budget had been finalised. The Combined Authority would be considering the proposed budgets and business plans on 4 February 2021.

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

## **76. Corporate Performance**

The Board considered a report of the Director, Corporate Services which provided an update on a range of corporate and governance matters.

Members noted the summary of the 2020/21 revenue budget spend as at November 2020 which was attached at Appendix 1 and summaries of the performance and headline strategic organisational risks were provided in Appendix 2.

In respect of the Statutory Accounts 2019/20, it was reported that the external auditor had reported their findings to the Governance & Audit Committee on 27 November 2020. The accounts had been published by the 30 November 2020 statutory deadline. Members were advised that the LEP financial statement which is audited as part of the overall annual audit remained unchanged from the draft published on the LEP website in summer 2020.

The Board noted the work of the internal audit team and the revised whistleblowing policy which was attached at Appendix 3. This had been updated to bring together existing Combined Authority and LEP policies to provide greater transparency and ease of access for the user.

**Resolved:** That the report and revised whistleblowing policy be noted.

## **77. Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 10 November 2020**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 10 November 2020 be noted.

## **78. Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 27 November 2020**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 27 November 2020 be noted.

**79. Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 10 December 2020**

**Resolved:** That the draft minutes of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 10 December 2020 be noted.

**80. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 February 2021.

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

**Date:** 24 February 2021

**Subject:** **Economic Reporting**

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**Director:** Alan Reiss, Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications

**Author:** James Hopton, Economic & Transport Analysis Manager

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

- 1.1 To provide an update on the latest economic and business intelligence for the Board, and to update the Board on the latest activity and intelligence around understanding the impact of COVID-19 and EU Exit.

## **2. Information**

- 2.1 UK GDP fell by 9.9% across 2020, according to the first estimate of annual output from the Office of National Statistics (ONS). The economy grew by 1% in Q4 2020 despite lockdown in November and further restrictions in December in some parts of the country. This follows growth of 16.1% in Q3. Across 2020 as a whole, the accommodation & food sector saw the greatest decline in output, down 44%. The sector accounts for 2.2% of West Yorkshire's economic output. The next largest fall was arts, entertainment & other services (-25.2%) which accounts for 3% of local output.
- 2.2 The latest data on business liquidations suggests this was rising again at the start of 2021, with 2,000 failures in January 2021 - 45% higher than in January 2020. However, Companies House announced a hold on processing liquidations for a month from 21 January, so no updated date will be available until late February at the earliest.
- 2.3 Meanwhile separate data from the ONS on business births and deaths, which is more limited in that it focuses narrowly on businesses registered for VAT or PAYE and has different conditions for removing businesses from the register (such as for reasons of inactivity), suggests business deaths were around 10% higher in Yorkshire & Humber and 13% higher nationally in 2020 when compared to 2019.
- 2.4 35% of businesses in West Yorkshire had less than three months cash reserves in the fortnight to 10 January according to the BICS. This is similar to England as a whole, and although there has been some fluctuation this number has been relatively consistent since mid-November. It is however an increase from 28% in early October.

- 2.5 In Q4 2020 there were 4,396 new business bank accounts being opened which is a growth rate of 6% when compared to 2019 Q4. Bradford in Q4 2020 has grown the most out of the districts in LCR at 23%, from 785 to 969.
- 2.6 Data from HMRC shows that 112,800 people in West Yorkshire were on furlough at the end of December – 11% of eligible jobs. This is down slightly from 12% in November and is slightly below the 12% for England in December. ONS survey data suggests furlough use is increasing in January's lockdown, with the latest national estimate suggesting 17% of jobs on furlough.
- 2.7 The claimant count in West Yorkshire has remained relatively stable, with a 0.7% increase between November and December. There were 106,300 claimants in December, up 86% on pre-pandemic levels. All local authorities in West Yorkshire saw small increases in December but all below 1%.
- 2.8 The number of vacancies for jobs in West Yorkshire posted online during week ending 30 January grew by 13% compared with the previous week (based on a 4-week moving average). Nationally, the number of vacancies also grew by 13%. All local authorities and occupational categories saw increases, with activity still slightly below pre-pandemic levels but more positive than in the first lockdown. The weekly vacancy count for West Yorkshire is around 10% below its recent peak in mid-October
- 2.9 Activity in West Yorkshire's main urban centres fell sharply in late December and has remained low throughout January. Although there has been a slight increase in activity in late January in some areas, most notably Huddersfield and Halifax, activity in these centres remains similar to levels seen in the spring 2020 lockdown.
- 2.10 Data on transport activity suggests that more people are using the transport network than in the first lockdown, but not to the extent seen during November's restrictions.
- 211 Both the LEP's interactions with businesses and national survey data highlight issues facing exporters at the outset of the post-transition trading arrangements with the EU. Almost half of exporters nationally experienced some difficulties in the first two weeks of the new arrangements, with a slight increase since then. Anecdotal evidence in Leeds City Region supports this. Businesses report delays at ports and increased costs, with some customers unwilling to consider increased prices and some businesses are seeking new suppliers as a result.
- 2.12 The 2021 Leeds City Region Business Survey is currently underway, with the focus of this on understanding businesses' views and experiences in relation to the pandemic and the end of EU transitions. The findings of the survey will be reported to a future meeting of the Board.

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

- 3.1 There are no tackling the 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 The Board are asked to note the latest intelligence around the economic impacts of COVID-19 and EU Exit and consider how this relates to their work and future work plans.

### **10. Background Documents**

- 10.1 None.

### **11. Appendices**

- 11.1 Appendix 1: Leeds City Region COVID-19 Insights Report – 5 February 2021

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<sup>15</sup> **COVID-19  
Fortnightly  
Insights Report**

Research & Intelligence  
5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

# Executive Summary – social and economic

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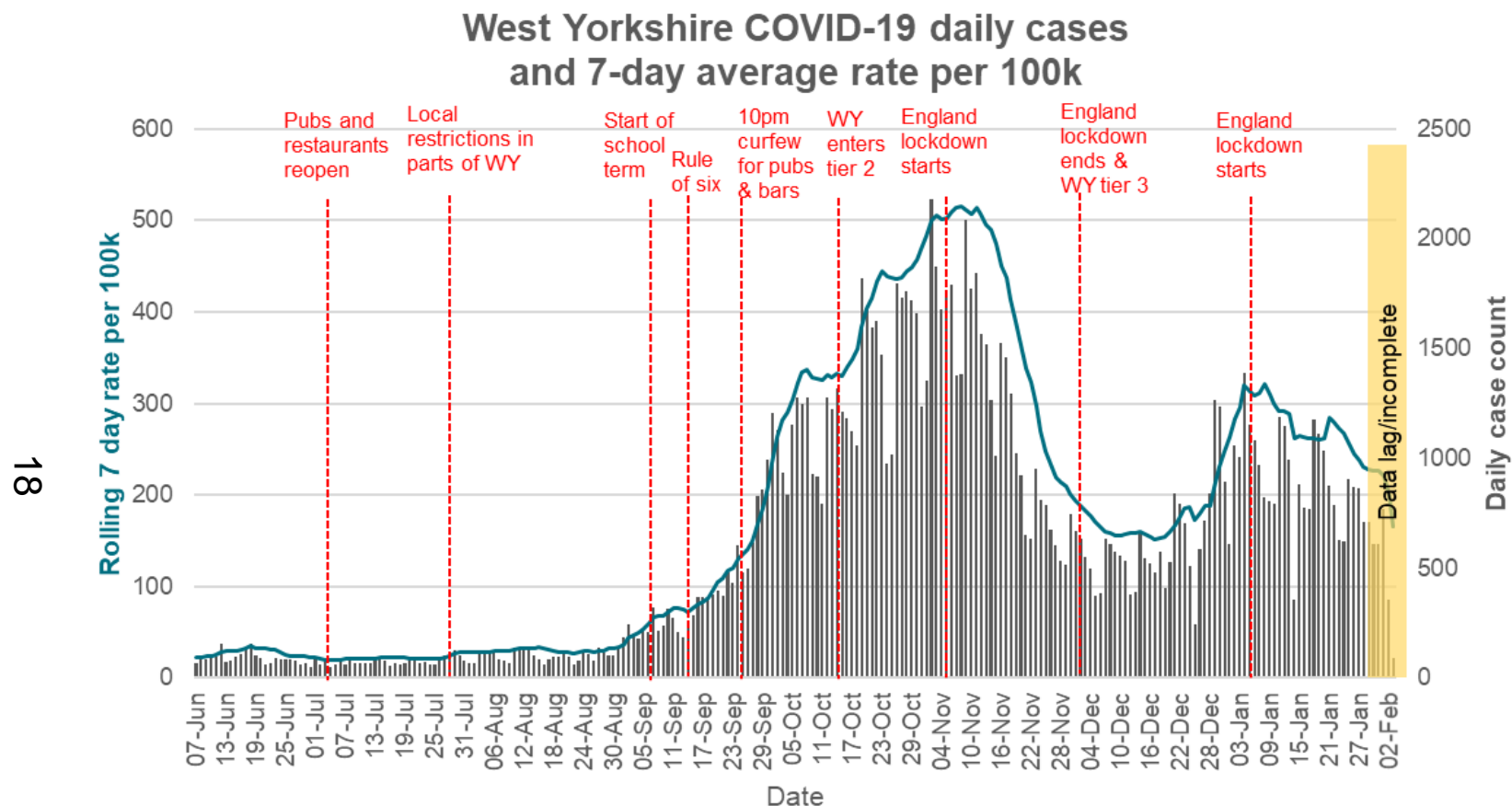
- There were some signs of increased activity in the economy in mid- to late-January, with three of West Yorkshire's five urban centres seeing small increases in activity. Leeds and Wakefield were the exceptions, with activity stable.
- Alongside this, vacancies increased by 13% in the latest four week period, suggesting a more stable picture in this lockdown when compared to March last year.
- Less positively, business liquidations have increased at the start of the new year, with the latest four week moving average showing a 22% increase. Liquidations are higher than in January 2020, and at their highest level since October 2020.
- <sup>16</sup> The proportion of people on furlough in West Yorkshire stood at 11%, equating to 113,000 jobs, in December. This was down slightly from November but higher than in October.
- Both the LEP's interactions with businesses and national survey data highlight issues facing exporters at the outset of the post-transition trading arrangements with the EU. Almost half of exporters nationally experienced some difficulties in the first two weeks of the new arrangements.
- Anecdotal evidence in Leeds City Region supports this. Businesses report delays at ports and increased costs, with some customers unwilling to consider increased prices some businesses are seeking new suppliers as a result. Workforce and recruitment issues are also high on the agenda for many businesses following these changes.

# Executive Summary – transport

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- Nationally, motor vehicle, bus and rail travel remained consistently higher than the levels seen in the first weeks of the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown, but lower than the second lockdown in November - a common theme amongst other mobility/activity data sources. Locally the picture is similar.
- Apple mobility levels for driving and transit in all UK cities are considerably higher during lockdown 3 than lockdown one in all cities where data is available. Locally, Bradford appears to have the greatest driving activity difference between lockdowns 3 & 1.
- Google workplace activity data indicates that levels of activity in West Yorkshire were slightly above the UK average, but not considerably different to other Northern conurbations such as Greater Manchester or Merseyside.
- In the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 24-hour weekday traffic levels in Leeds were down 31% on the same week in 2019, with little change from the previous week.
- Data from bus ticket machines reveals that bus use by Under 19s, Senior and Disabled cohorts is similar to late June; higher than the lockdown 1, but lower than lockdown 2.
- In terms of bus ticket preference, longer validity tickets were used slightly more & day tickets slightly less in the latest week compared to summer when total use was similar.
- Leeds City Centre footfall – all camera sites reveal footfall is currently lower than during the 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown, but higher than the first.

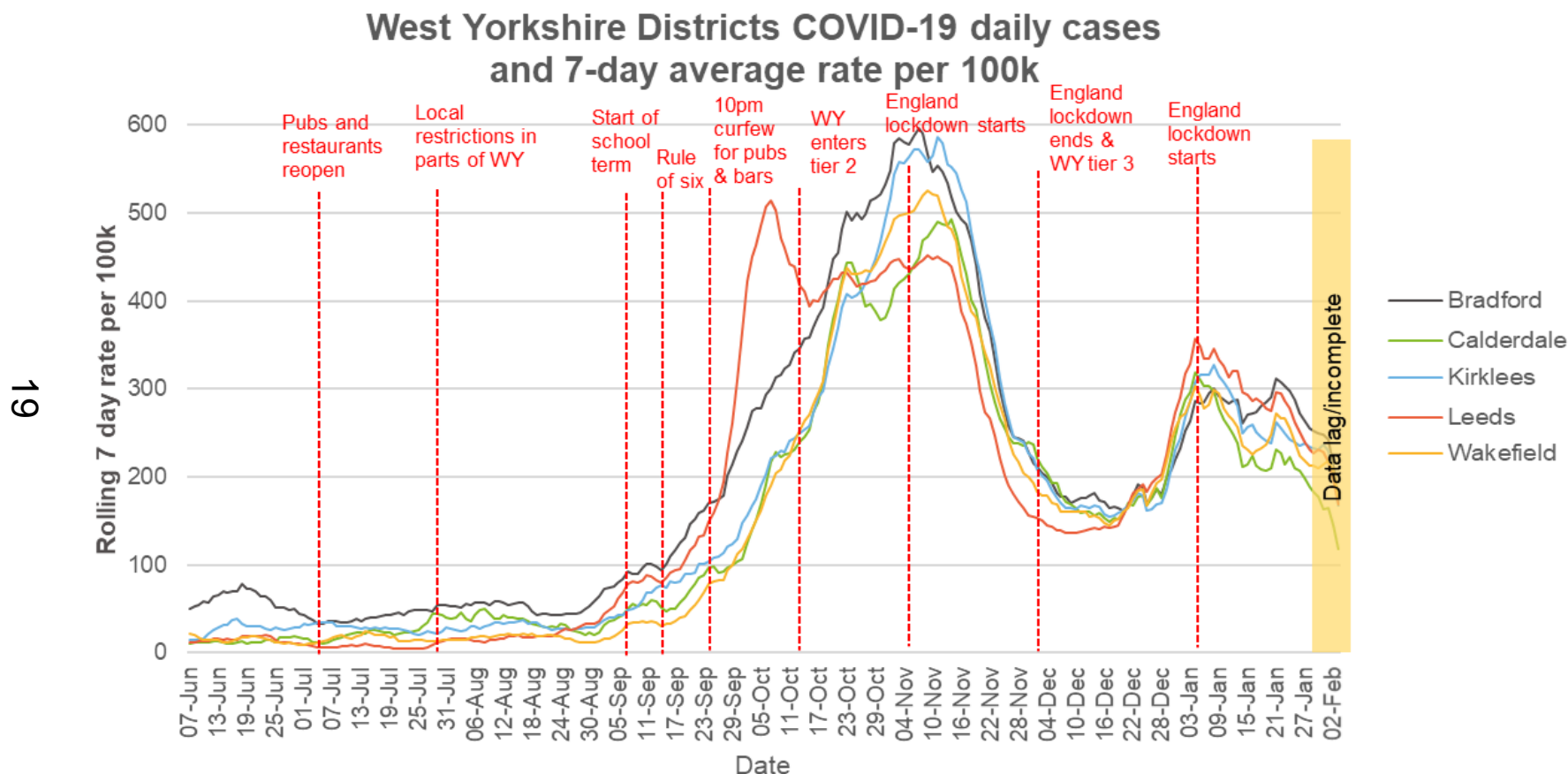
# Virus prevalence – West Yorkshire trend



The chart above reveals the trend in the number of daily COVID-19 cases in West Yorkshire and the 7-day rolling rate per 100k population. As of the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the 7-day moving average **West Yorkshire COVID-19 rate was 227.2 cases per 100k, down from 273.7 per 100k the week before**. This is above the Yorkshire and the Humber rate (202.8 per 100k), but below the England rate (260.6 per 100k).

Source: Secure COVID-19 PHE data portal. Note there is a lag in the very latest data PHE COVID-19 data to account for all test results to be processed and recorded.

# Virus prevalence – District overall trend











The chart shows the trends in the 7-day rolling COVID-19 rate per 100k population at district level. Within West Yorkshire, as of the 30<sup>th</sup> January rates are lowest in Calderdale (177.8 per 100k) and highest in Bradford (249.5 per 100k). The dip and peak around the 15<sup>th</sup> January likely relates to delays and subsequent backlogs in testing due to heavy snow in some parts of the country.

Source: Secure COVID-19 PHE data portal. Note there is a lag in the very latest data PHE COVID-19 data to account for all test results to be processed and recorded.

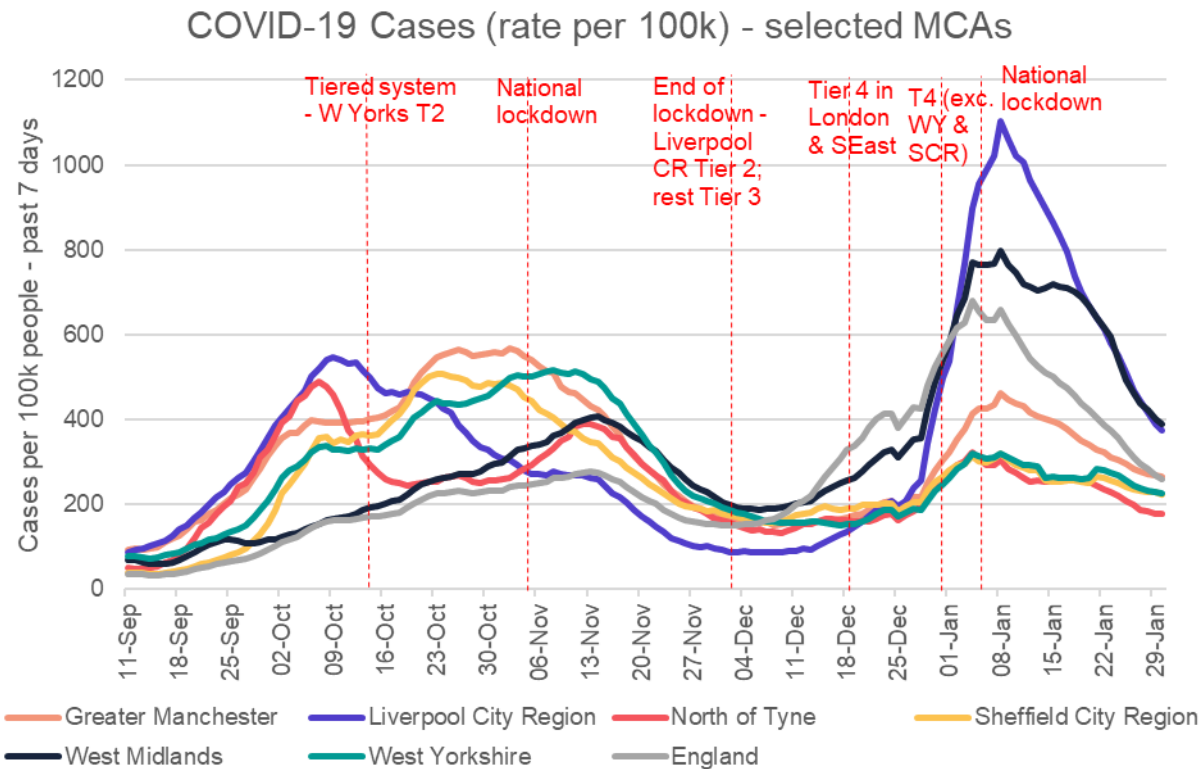
# Virus prevalence – West Yorkshire

Table shows the most recent COVID-19 case data from Public Health England's (PHE) secure data portal. Note due to reporting delays for comparison between Local Authorities the most recent 4 days are excluded from the calculations of rates and moving averages.

	Area	Total cases per 100k people (24 Jan – 30 Jan)	Total cases per 100k people (17 Jan – 23 Jan)	Absolute Difference	
	Most recent data week	Previous week			
20	Bradford	249.5	302.9	-53.4	
	Calderdale	177.8	214.2	-36.4	
	Kirklees	230.8	249.2	-18.4	
	Leeds	230.7	286.5	-55.7	
	Wakefield	209.9	266.1	-56.3	
	West Yorkshire	227.2	273.7	-46.5	
	Yorkshire & the Humber	202.8	242.6	-39.8	
	England	260.6	373.9	-113.3	

# All MCAs seeing cases fall, rates beginning to converge

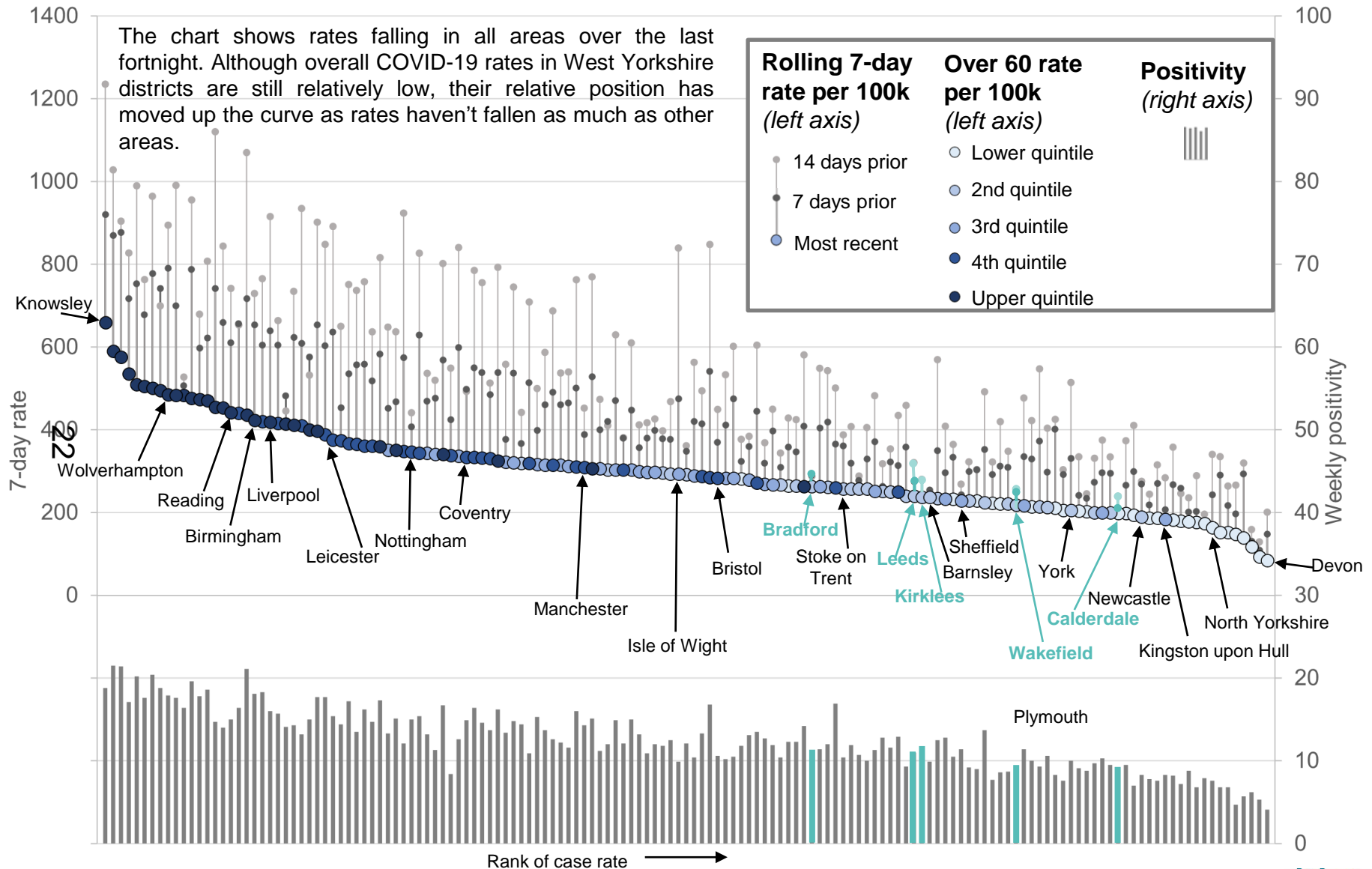
All MCAs analysed here have seen rates falling following a plateau in some areas in mid-January. The pace of decline continues to be much sharper in the areas where rates remain highest, namely Liverpool City Region and West Midlands. Whilst infection rates remain higher than the average for England in these areas, the England rate of 261 cases per 100k is now in line with Greater Manchester and the gap to the other MCAs is closing. West Yorkshire, North of Tyne and Sheffield City Region have all seen case rates begin to fall again, albeit at a lower pace than nationally.





# COVID-19 Rates for Upper Tier Local Authorities

7-day average COVID-19 rate per 100k population, change compared to the previous week, over 60 rate & positivity

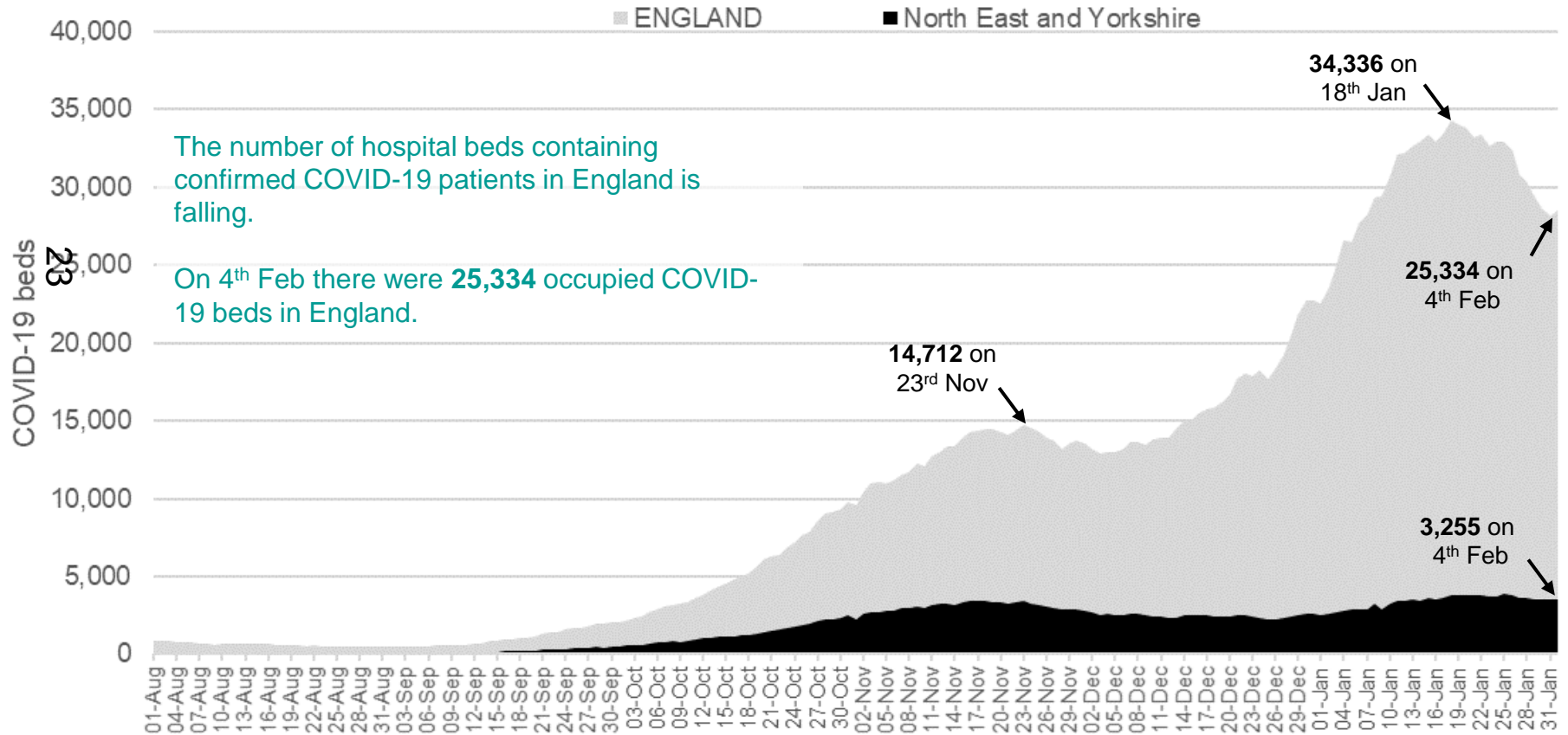


Blue points show latest COVID-19 case rate per 100k across UTLAs as of the 27th January (left Y-axis). Vertical bars connected to these points denote rate last week (dark grey) and the week before (light grey). Point colour denotes the COVID-19 rate per 100k in the over 60s. Grey bars at the bottom denote positivity (%) up to the 27th Jan (right Y-axis).



# COVID-19 Hospital beds – England

Total hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients - England and Yorkshire & NE region



Source: NHS England - The number of hospital beds containing confirmed COVID-19 patients

# Economic Insights

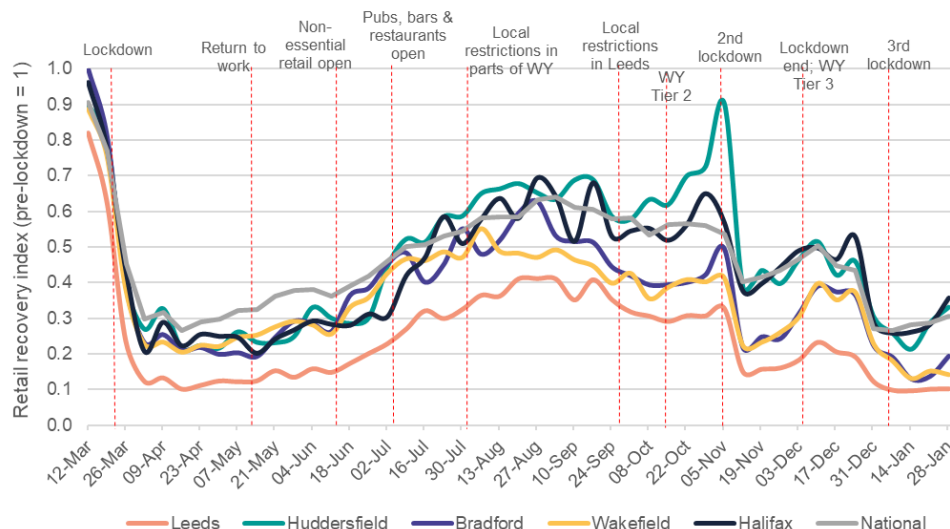


# Slight increase in activity in some urban centres

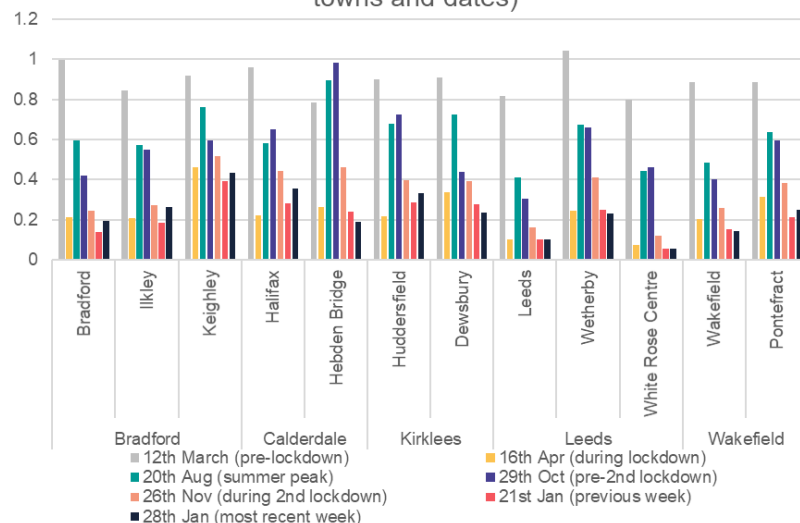
Activity increased in three of West Yorkshire's main urban centres in the week to January 28th, according to data from Geolytix. Activity increased by between 4 and 7 percentage points in Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield but was unchanged in Leeds and Wakefield. This data suggests activity is currently slightly higher than lockdown 1 in Halifax and Huddersfield, slightly lower in Wakefield and unchanged in Leeds and Bradford. Although there has been more fluctuation locally than nationally, they have broadly followed similar patterns over the pandemic. The latest topline data is similar to Huddersfield and Halifax at the higher end of the West Yorkshire urban centres.

Looking at more local centres, Pontefract and Ilkley saw slight increases in the past week, with Dewsbury and Hebden Bridge seeing slight falls.

Retail recovery index - main urban centres



Retail recovery index - West Yorkshire (selected towns and dates)

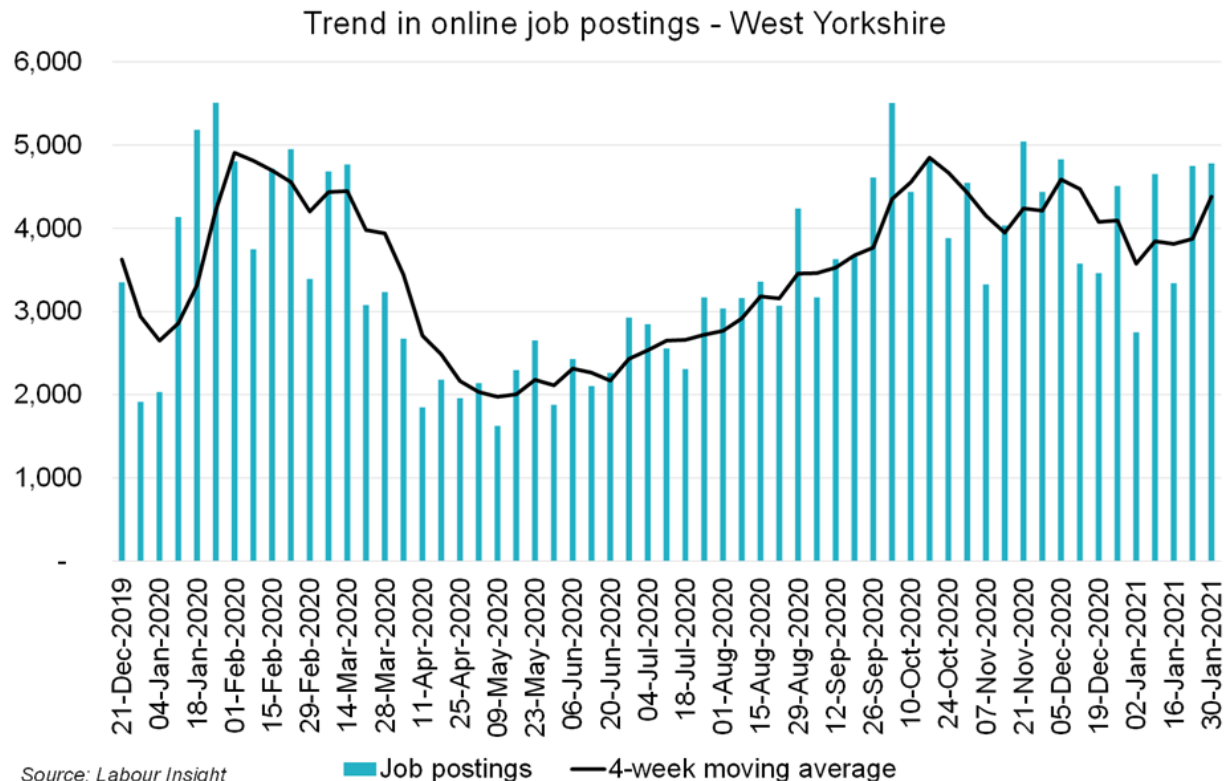


Source: Geolytix Retail Recovery Index, 2020

Source: Geolytix Retail Recovery Index

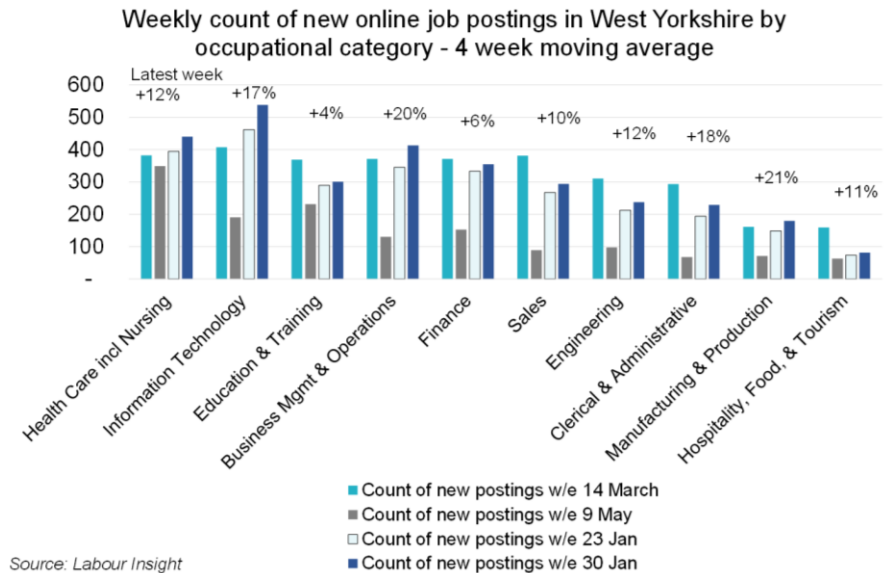
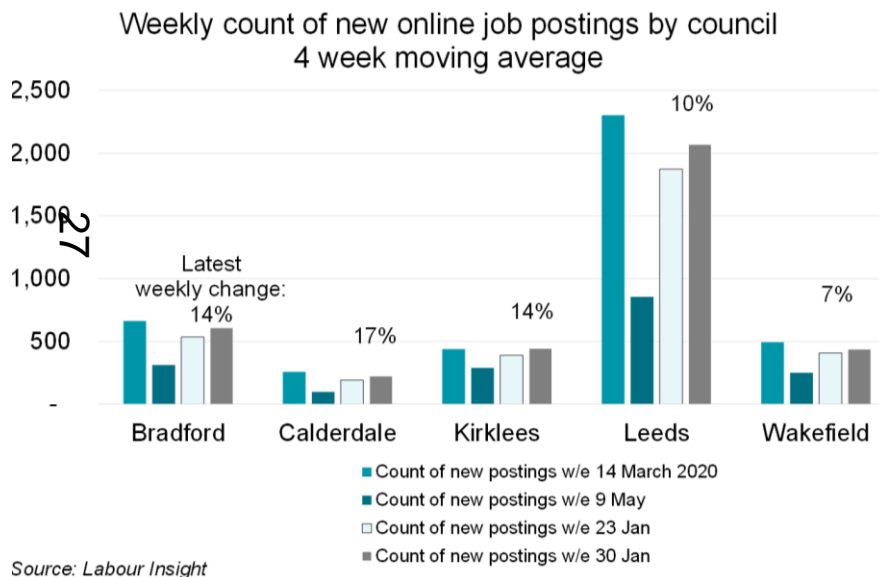
# Vacancy postings stabilising; higher than first lockdown

The number of vacancies for jobs in West Yorkshire posted online during week ending 30 January grew by 13% compared with the previous week (based on a 4-week moving average). Nationally, the number of vacancies also grew by 13%. The weekly vacancy count for West Yorkshire is around 10% below its recent peak in mid-October, which was achieved prior to the imposition of the second lockdown in November, and is 2% below its pre-crisis level (week ending March 14). However, the latest count is more than twice the level seen in the depths of the first lockdown in early May. There are some signs that the vacancy count has stabilised during recent weeks despite the third lockdown.



# Increase in vacancies for all local authorities and occupational categories

All local authority areas also saw increases in postings in the latest week. Kirklees has now recovered to its pre-crisis position but all others still have ground to make up. However, the latest vacancy counts for all local authorities are well above the levels of early May (the lowest point of the first lockdown) and all have seen a relatively stable trend over recent weeks.

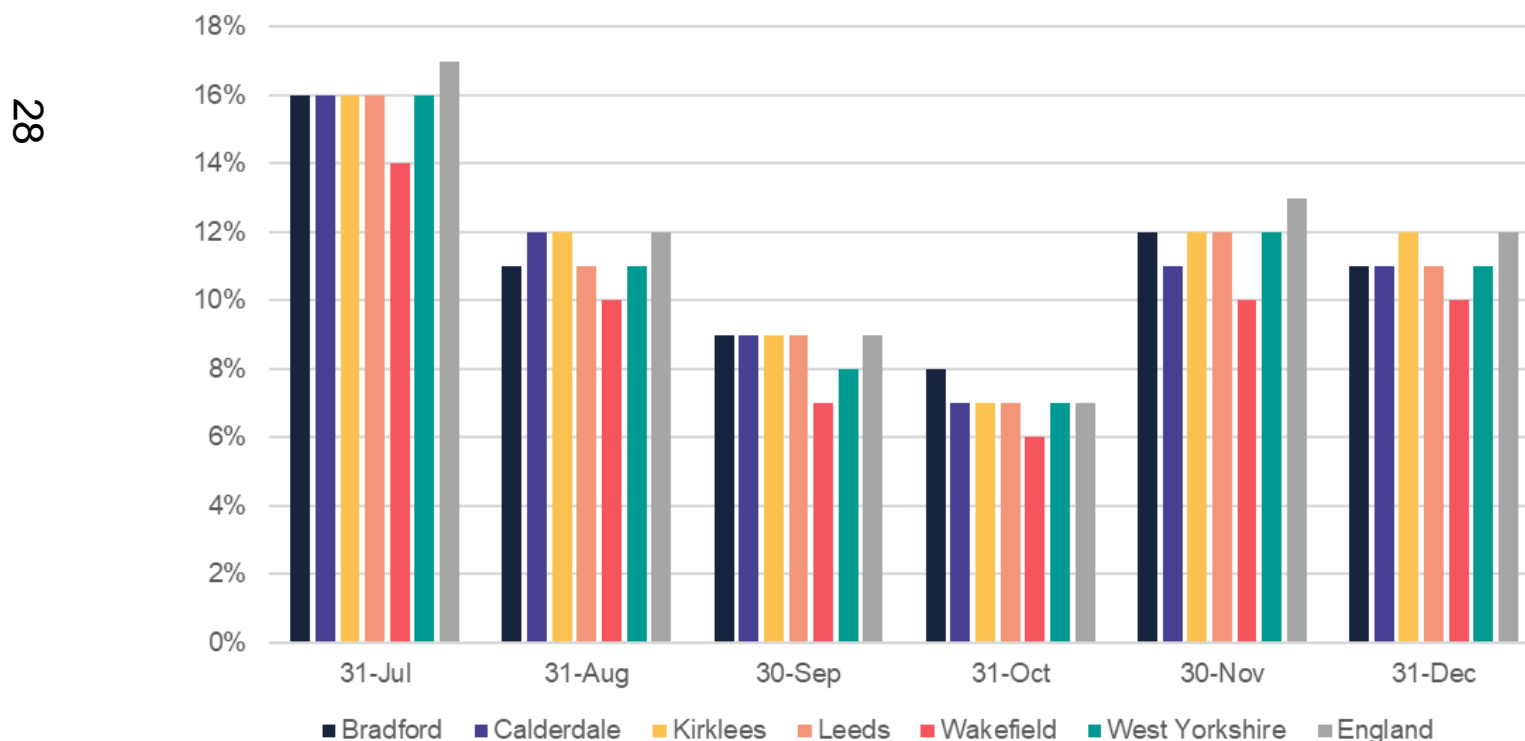


All occupational categories saw an increase in postings for the most recent week, based on a 4-week moving average. A number of categories have now surpassed their pre-crisis vacancy levels (week ending 14 March) including IT, Health, Business management and Manufacturing. Hospitality, food and tourism, Sales and Clerical and administrative have the most ground to make up in terms of their pre-crisis positions.

# More than 1 in 10 jobs still furloughed in December according to HMRC

Data from HMRC shows that 112,800 people in West Yorkshire were on furlough at the end of December – 11% of eligible jobs. This is down slightly from 12% in November, and is slightly below the 12% for England in December. Furlough take up has been similar across West Yorkshire districts though has been generally lower 1 or 2 percentage points lower in Wakefield. Although furlough take up is below the 16% recorded in July, it remains significantly higher than the 7% seen in October. Although local restrictions have been in place in some or all of West Yorkshire since July, this data would suggest that this hasn't led to increased use of the furlough scheme compared to England as a whole.

Proportion of jobs furloughed

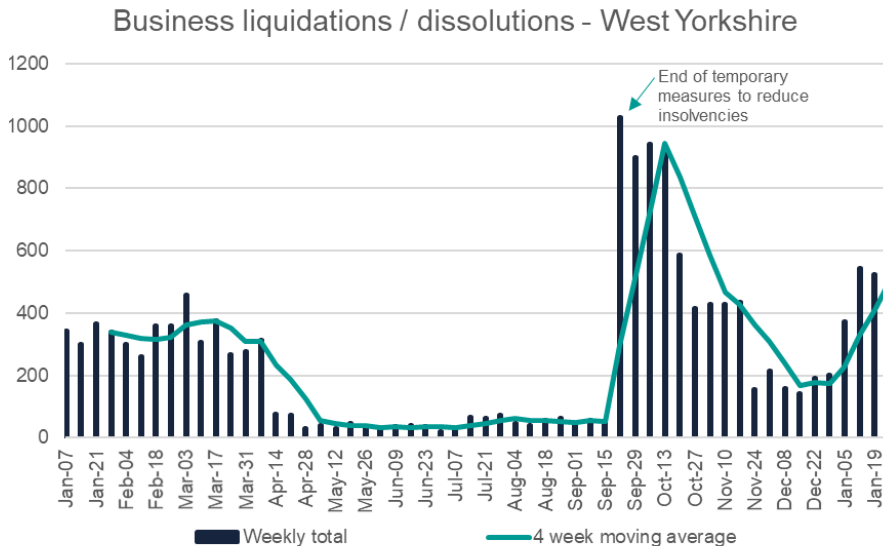


\*Source: ONS Business Impacts of Coronavirus Survey

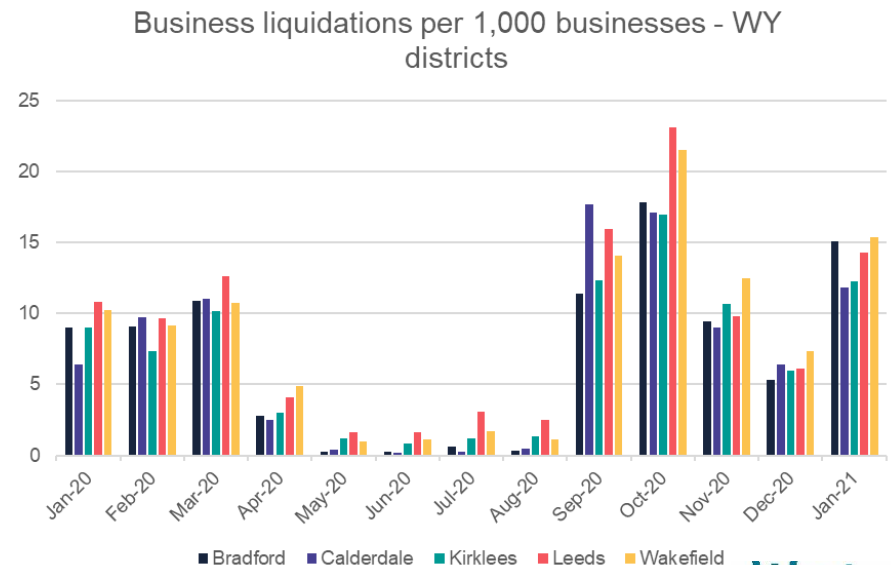
# Business liquidations / dissolutions increase throughout January

There were 559 business liquidations / dissolutions in the week to January 26<sup>th</sup>, according to data from Bureau van Dijk's Fame database. Based on a four week moving average, this is up 22% on the previous week across West Yorkshire, and up 23% nationally. At local authority level, increases were lowest in Calderdale (15%) and Kirklees (17%) and highest in Bradford (28%) and Leeds (23%). In the week to January 26<sup>th</sup>, liquidations / dissolutions per 1,000 businesses remained slightly below the average for England (3.9 compared to 4.8).

So far, 13.9 businesses per 1,000 have been dissolved / liquidated in January 2021 in West Yorkshire, up from 9.6 in 2020. This is highest in Wakefield (15.4) and Bradford (15.1). All districts have seen higher failure rates than in January 2020.



Source: FAME, Bureau van Dijk, 2021

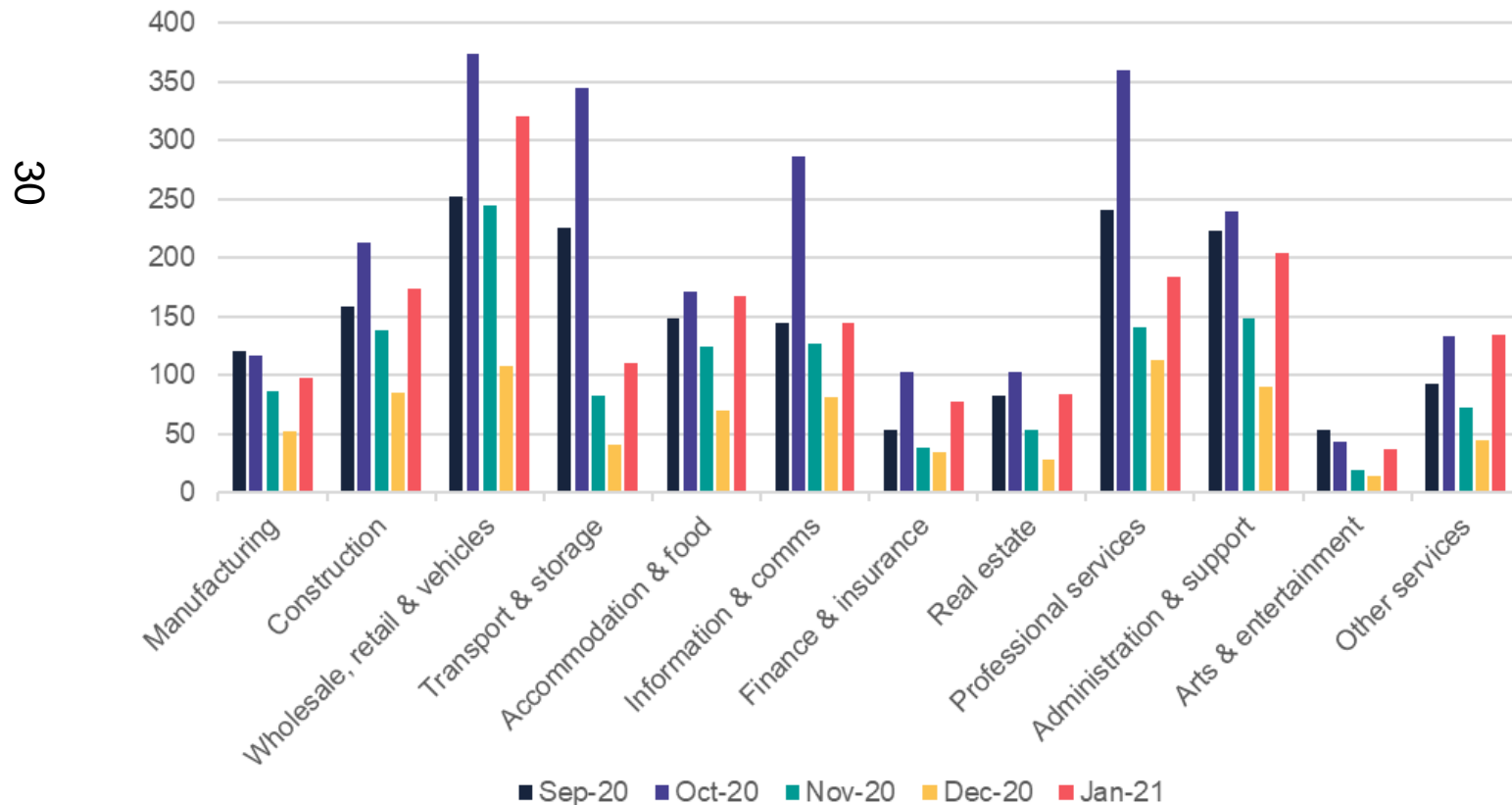




# Increases in business liquidations across industries, but highest in consumer sectors

The wholesale and retail sector has seen the highest number of liquidations / dissolutions in January, at 320, up 196% on December, All sectors saw increases in dissolutions / liquidations in January compared to December. Business administration saw the next highest total (200 liquidations) up 127%. Other sectors to see significant increases from December include other services (198%), transport & storage (171%), arts & entertainment (164%) and accommodation & food (139%).

Business liquidations / dissolutions by sector - West Yorks

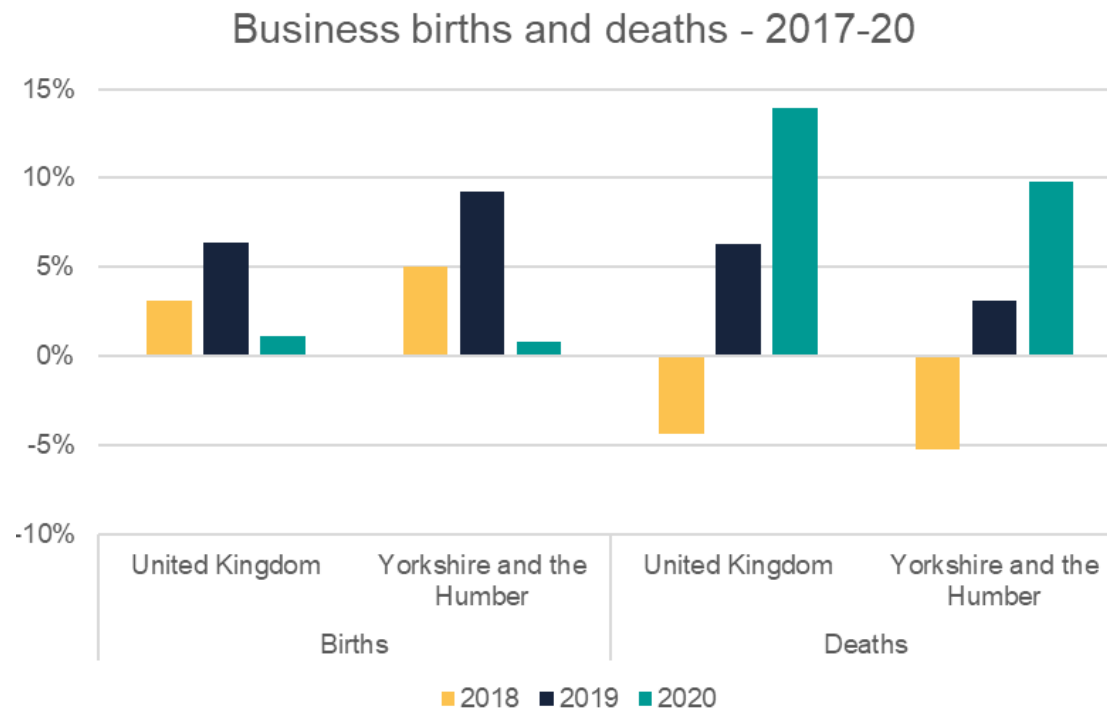




# ONS data suggests increased business deaths and starts in 2020

ONS have published new quarterly, regional data on the number of new business “births” and “deaths” through to the end of 2020. This shows 24,670 business deaths and 25,270 births in Yorkshire & Humber in 2020, suggesting a small net increase in business stock in 2020. The number of business starts was largely unchanged from 2019, up 0.8%, though the number of deaths increased by 9.8% compared to 2019. The trends were similar in the country as a whole, but the business death figure was higher at 13.9% at UK level.

It should be noted that these trends vary from the Fame data, which draws on Companies House. The source data is similar, though the ONS data only covers businesses registered for VAT or PAYE, so is a smaller overall sample and the criteria for, and timing of removing businesses is also different with more lag in the ONS data.



# Issues around Workforce & People was the most reported so far this year

This week we have started to see a small number of business making a small number of redundancies due to COVID-19 restriction impacting demand. Another company has seen growth and are looking to hire new staff, EU exit transition has made the process more difficult due to the increase in duty charges which customers do not want to accept.

This week we also have an increase in companies providing feedback specific to issues they are facing around the EU Exit transition. Most of the issue's companies are having are around the increase cost and delays around importing and exporting. For many businesses, their customers are refusing to pay for these increases so the business themselves are having to absorb as operating costs. Which is hurting their cash reserves and viability as a business.

Many of the delays in the supply chain has come about due the time it takes for paperwork to be processed or for seemingly correct paperwork being rejected without proper explanations. This has all led to much higher admin overheads and an issue around just in time delivery of goods. Due to these delays some companies have had to switch suppliers in order to keep the supply chain moving, which has increased operating costs again.

Out of over 200 business responses the most reported issue was Workforce & People. There were two main themes in the feedback of businesses that have reported this issue. First is companies looking to hire but are having difficulty accessing the labour market. The other issue is mentioned was some companies are having difficulties facilitating homeworking or social distancing in the workplace. Issues around Importing & Export, with delays at the border due to EU exit transition having an impact on operating costs for many businesses.



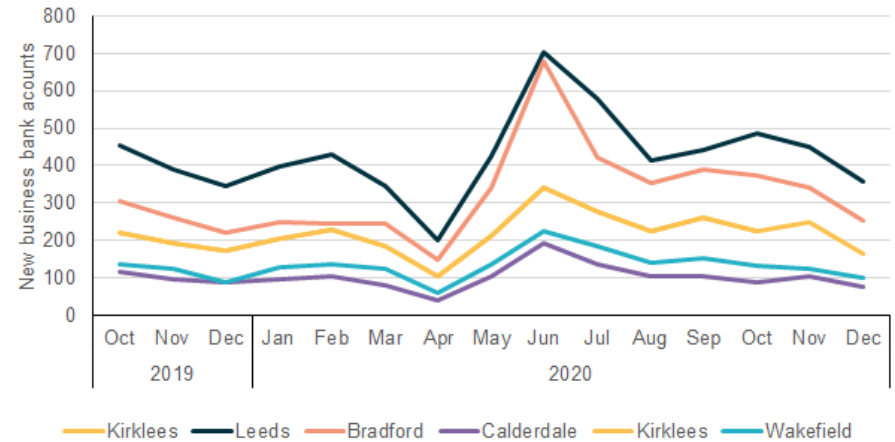
# Small increase in new business bank accounts in the Leeds City Region

In December there were 1,182 new business bank accounts opened. This represents a seasonally expected decline from November where 1,589 new bank accounts were opened. When comparing to December 2019, the number of new bank accounts opened grew by 3.1% from 1147 to 1182.

Leeds has the highest number of new bank accounts with 356. A growth rate of 3% from last year. While Bradford is not too far behind with 254 accounts being opened. Which is a growth of 14% when compared to the December of 2019.

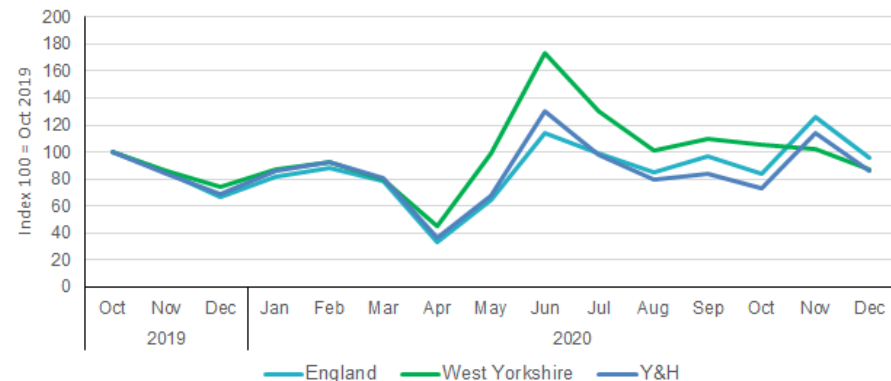
In Q4 2020 there were 4,396 new accounts being opened which is a growth rate of 6% when compared to 2019 Q4. Bradford in Q4 2020 has grown the most out of the districts in LCR at 23%, from 785 to 969. While Harrogate has fallen by 21% from 254 to 201.

New business bank accounts 2019 - 2020



Source: Banksearch, 2020

Index of new business bank accounts - Y&H, WY and England, 2019 - 2020



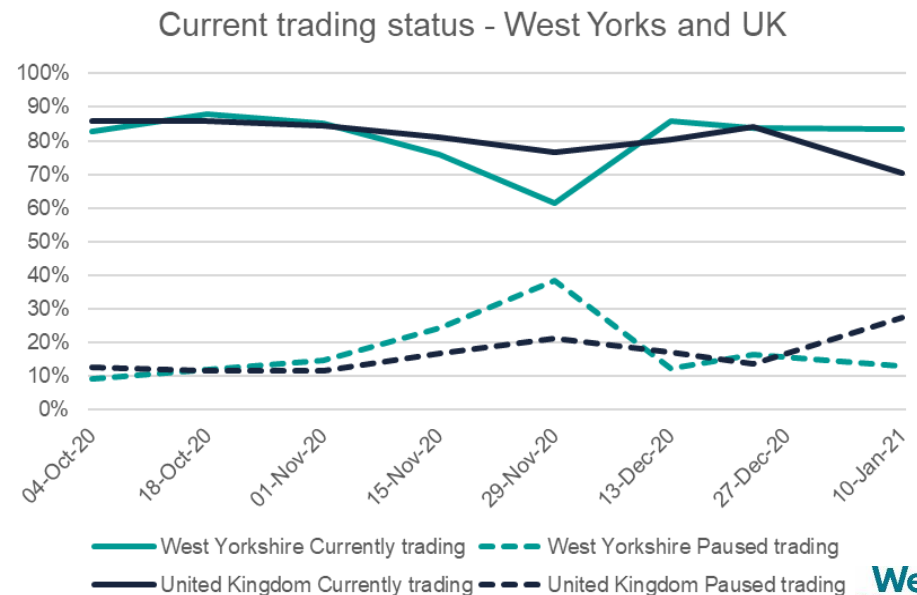
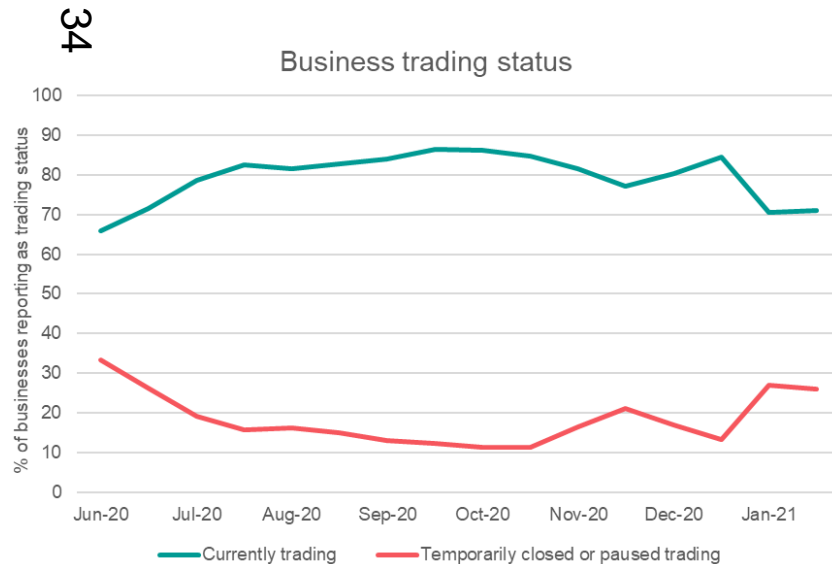
Source: Banksearch, 2020

# A quarter of businesses closed temporarily

## – picture stabilised

The proportion of businesses currently trading nationally stabilised at around 71% in the fortnight to January 24th, whilst 26% were closed temporarily according to the ONS Business Impacts of Coronavirus Survey (BICS). Whilst this is relatively unchanged on the previous fortnight, it represents the highest proportion of temporary closures since June/July. There was also little significant change by sector, though the proportion currently trading in the other services sector fell from 43% to 21%. This sector includes hair & beauty and other personal services.

ONS have also published local results from the BICS for the first time, up to wave 21 (to 10<sup>th</sup> January). This shows patterns in West Yorkshire have largely followed a similar trend, though the data suggests that more businesses were closed in West Yorkshire during November's lockdown. This could however just be a fluctuation in the data.

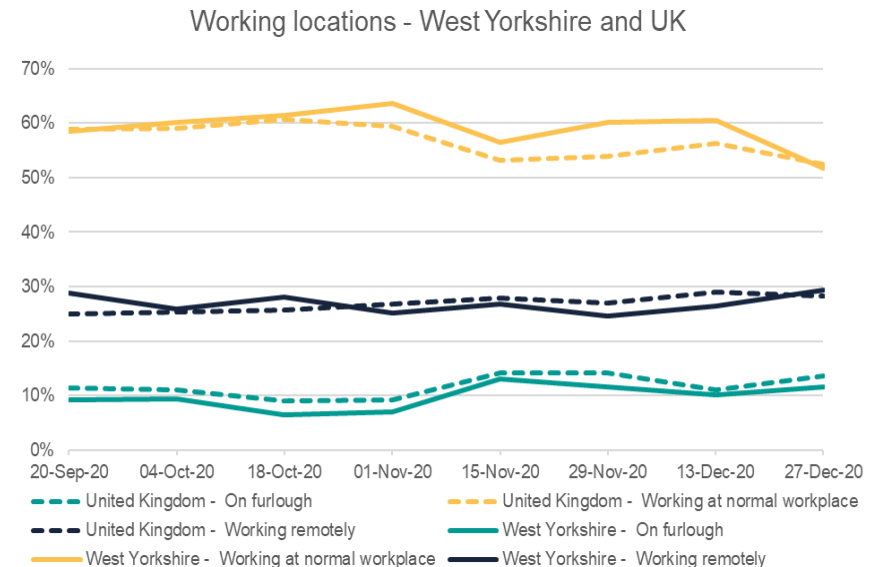
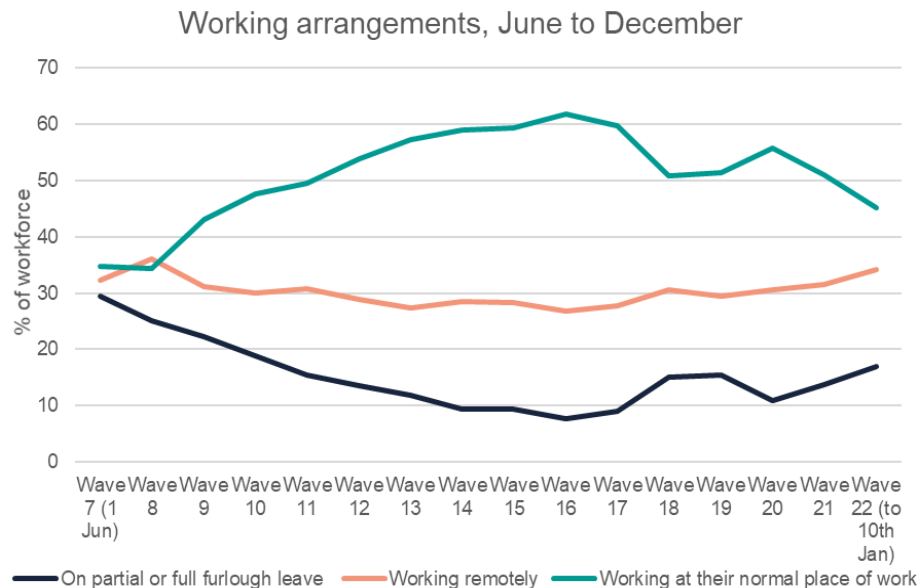


\*Source: ONS Business Impacts of Coronavirus Survey

# ONS survey suggests changes in working patterns in January lockdown

Data from ONS's BICS survey broadly supports the trajectory and take up of furlough data published by HMRC. More recent data is also available in the BICS, and suggests that there has been an increase in furlough use through January's national lockdown. The proportion of jobs furloughed nationally increased from 11% in mid-December to 17% in the fortnight to January 10<sup>th</sup>. The proportion working at their usual place of work also fell over that period, from 56% to 45%, whilst remote working increased from 30% to 34%.

ONS have also published local data on working patterns for the first time. Again this shows a very similar pattern to the UK, though slightly lower use of furlough locally and slightly higher proportions working in their usual place (until mid-December). If these patterns held, it would suggest furlough use in West Yorkshire increasing to in the region of 16% of eligible jobs in January – around 160,000 jobs.

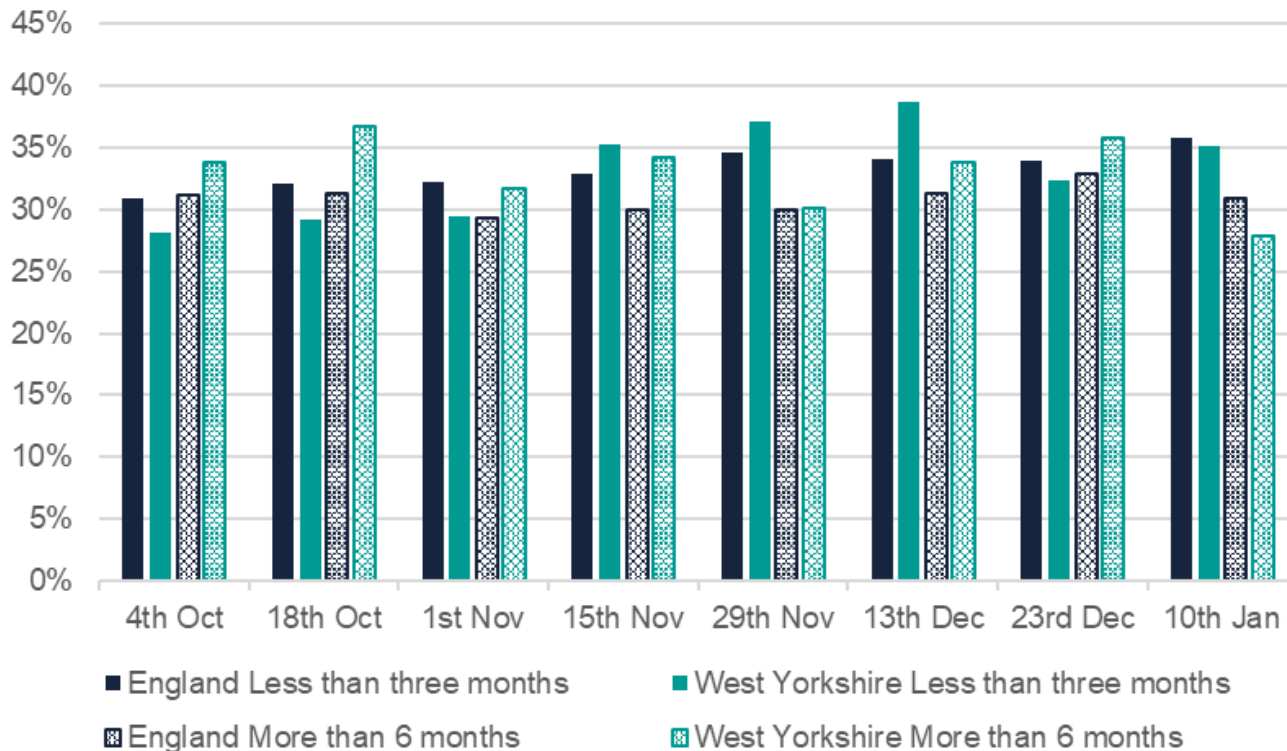


\*Source: ONS Business Impacts of Coronavirus Survey

# 35% of West Yorkshire businesses have less than three months cash in reserve

35% of businesses in West Yorkshire had less than three months cash reserves in the fortnight to January 10<sup>th</sup> according to the BICS. This is similar to England as a whole, and although there has been some fluctuation this number has been relatively consistent since mid-November. It is however an increase from 28% in early October. The England figure has increased from 31% over that period, suggesting the two lockdowns since then may be having some impact on businesses' cash position.

Cash reserves - West Yorkshire and UK

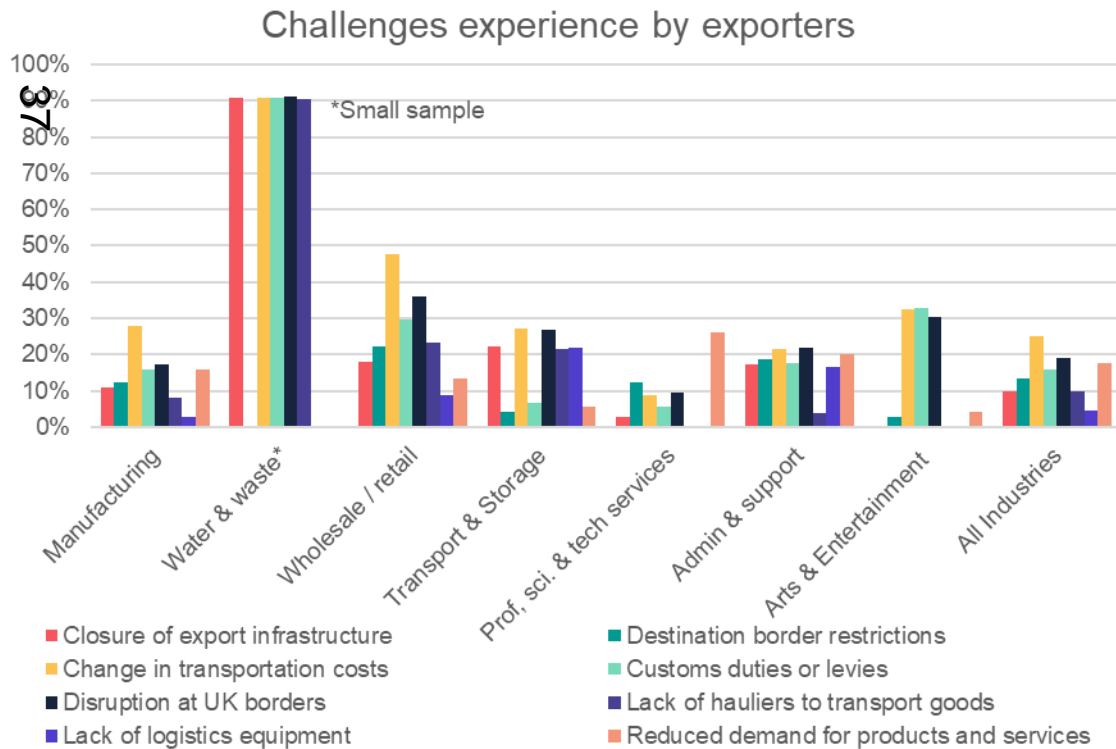


\*Source: ONS Business Impacts of Coronavirus Survey



# Almost half of importers and exporters experience challenges post-transition

Amongst businesses who export, almost half experienced some challenges whilst exporting (47%) and/or importing (44.3%) in the fortnight to January 10th, covering the period immediately before and after the end of the transition arrangements with the EU. Compared to two weeks earlier this is up from 39.5% for exporters and 37.3% for importers. Of those who experienced these challenges, 38% said they were the result of the end of the transition period, 24% said they were driven by the pandemic, and 32% said both issues were a factor. Among manufacturers, two thirds said EU exit issues were the main factor.



Changes in transportation costs were the most frequently mentioned challenge overall, mentioned by 25% of businesses followed by disruption at UK borders (19%) and reduced demand (17.5%). As would be expected, borders and transportation were bigger issues for those who move physical goods, including 47% of wholesale/retail exporters, but reduced demand was a bigger issue for service sectors (26% of professional services firms).

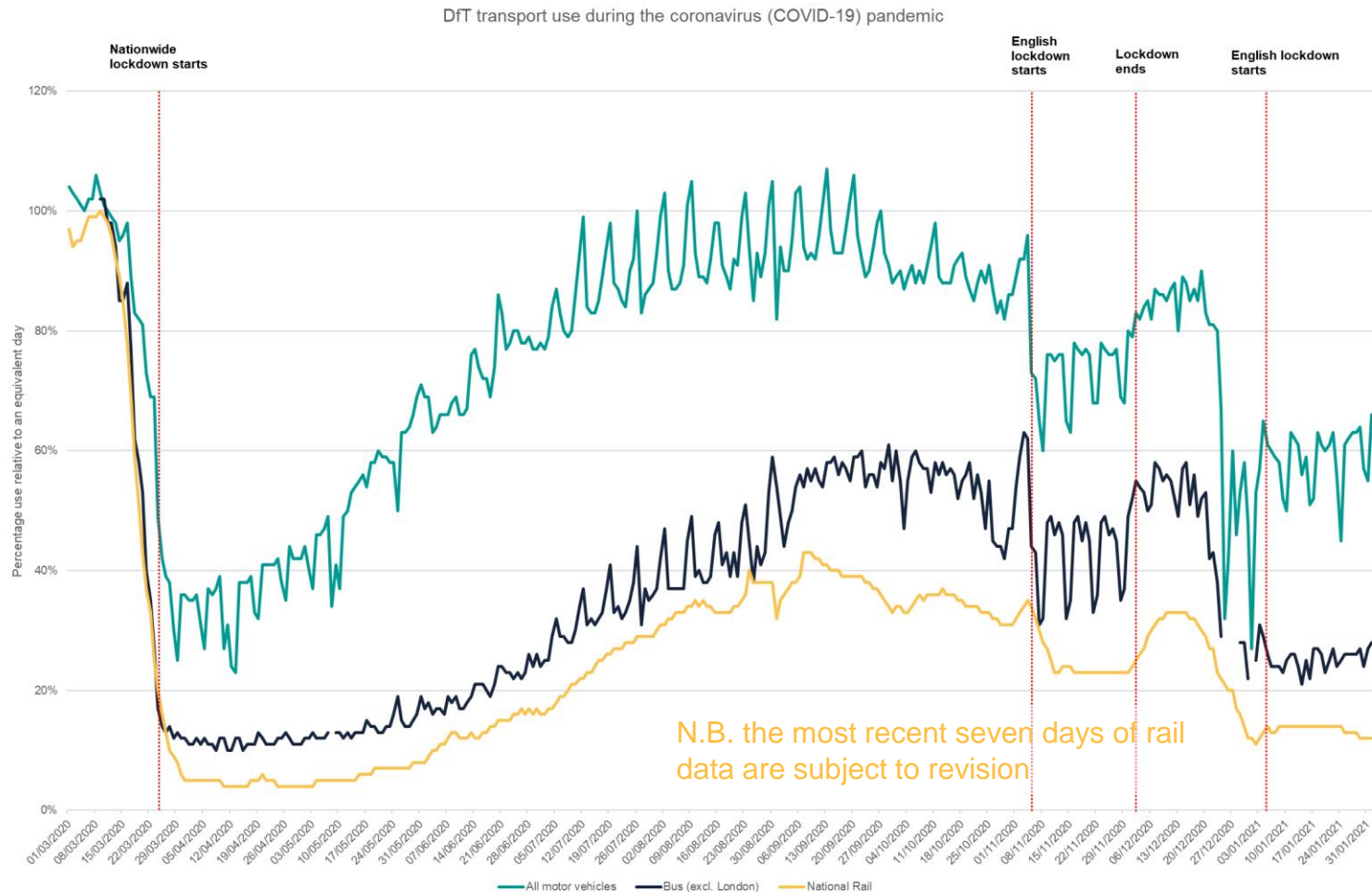
# Transport Insights





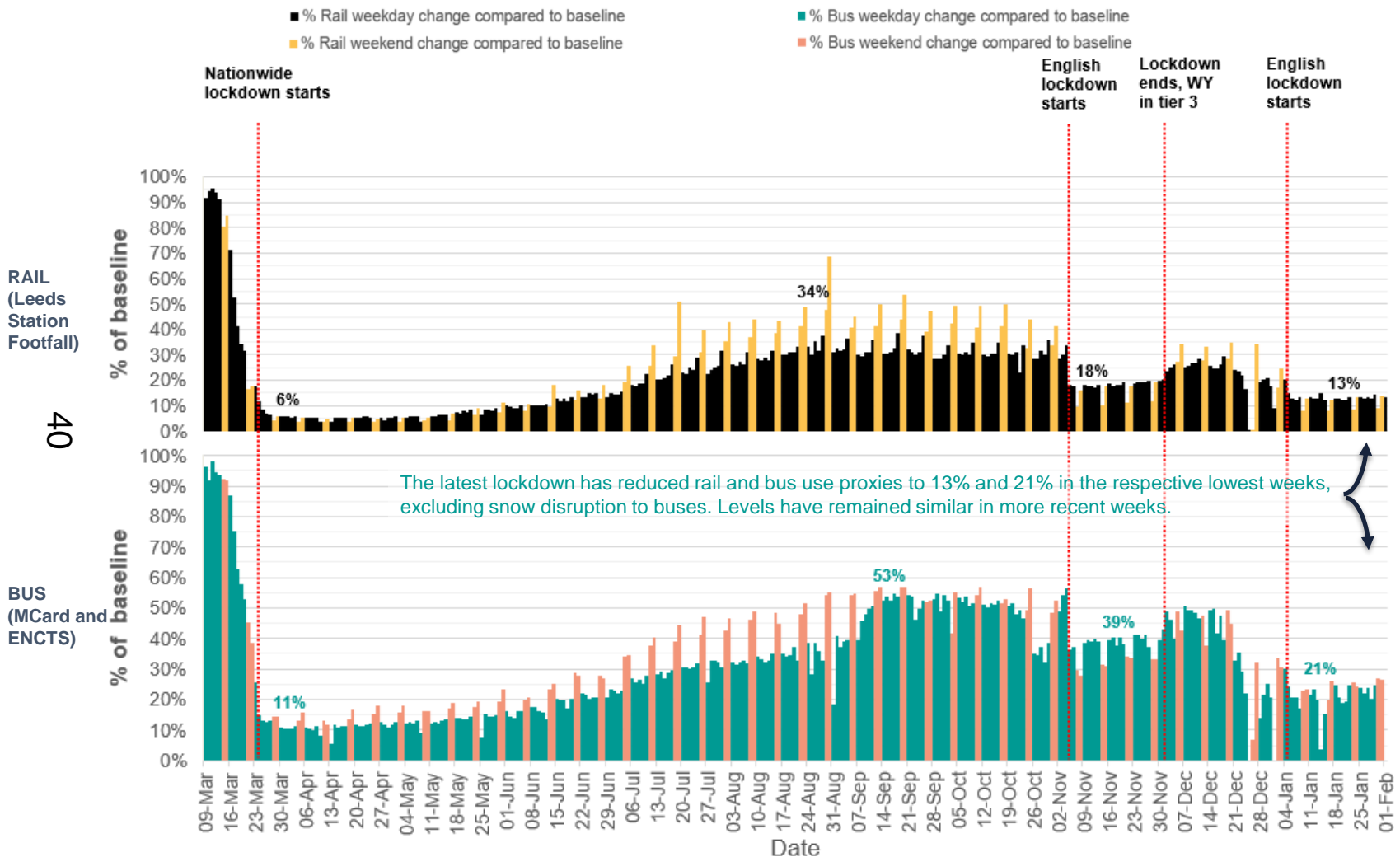
# National travel levels remain consistently higher than in the March 2020 lockdown

Data for Great Britain shows that, over the first weeks of the latest lockdown, motor vehicle, bus and rail travel remained consistently higher than the levels seen in the first weeks of the March 2020 lockdown, but lower than the second lockdown in November. Similar trends occur locally.



Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/transport-use-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic>

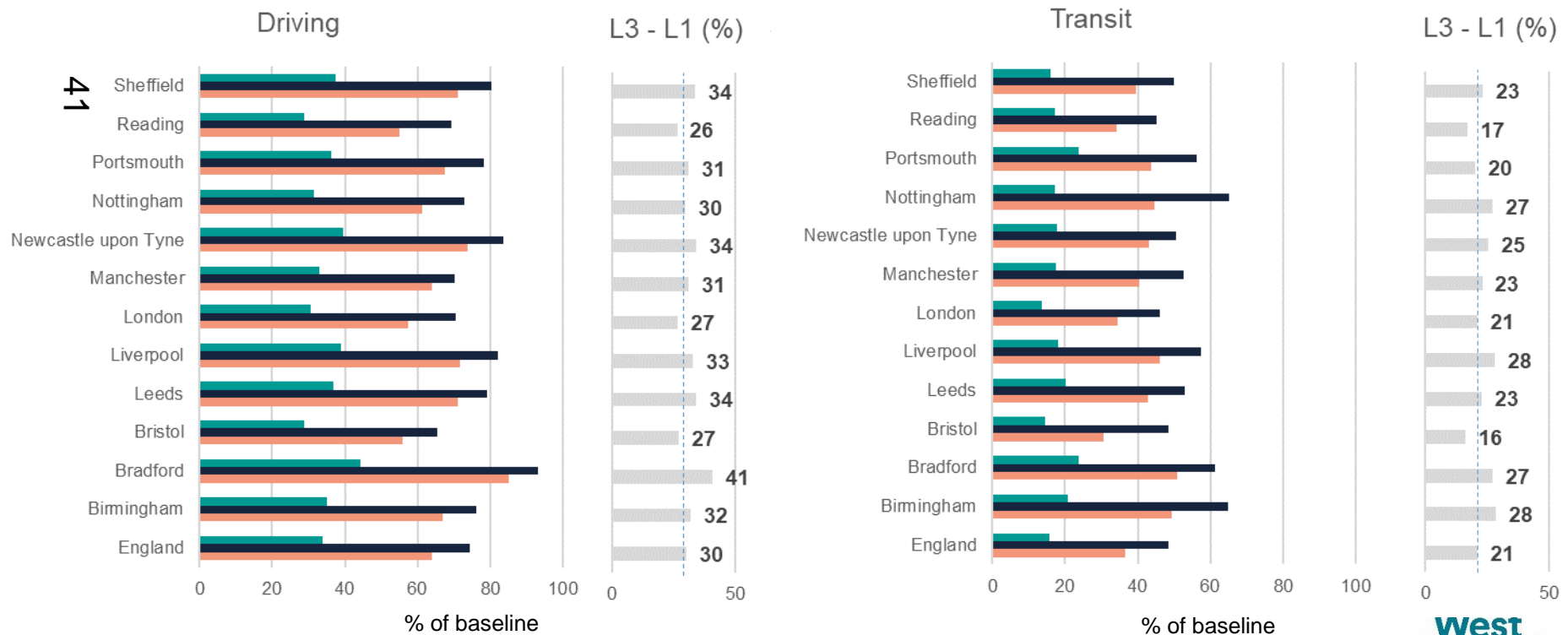
# Local rail and bus proxies remain at consistently higher levels than March 2020



# Apple Mobility Trends – Lockdown Comparison (first month)

Charts below reveal Apple mobility data (requests for directions in Apple Maps for driving and public transport) during the first month of each lockdown in a variety of English cities (and England average). Grey bars (and corresponding number) to the right of each chart indicates the difference between current lockdown and the first lockdown. Notably, both activity levels for driving and transit are considerably higher during lockdown 3 than lockdown one in all cities where data is available. Locally, Bradford appears to have the greatest driving activity difference between lockdowns 3 & 1, but Leeds is in a similar range to other cities.

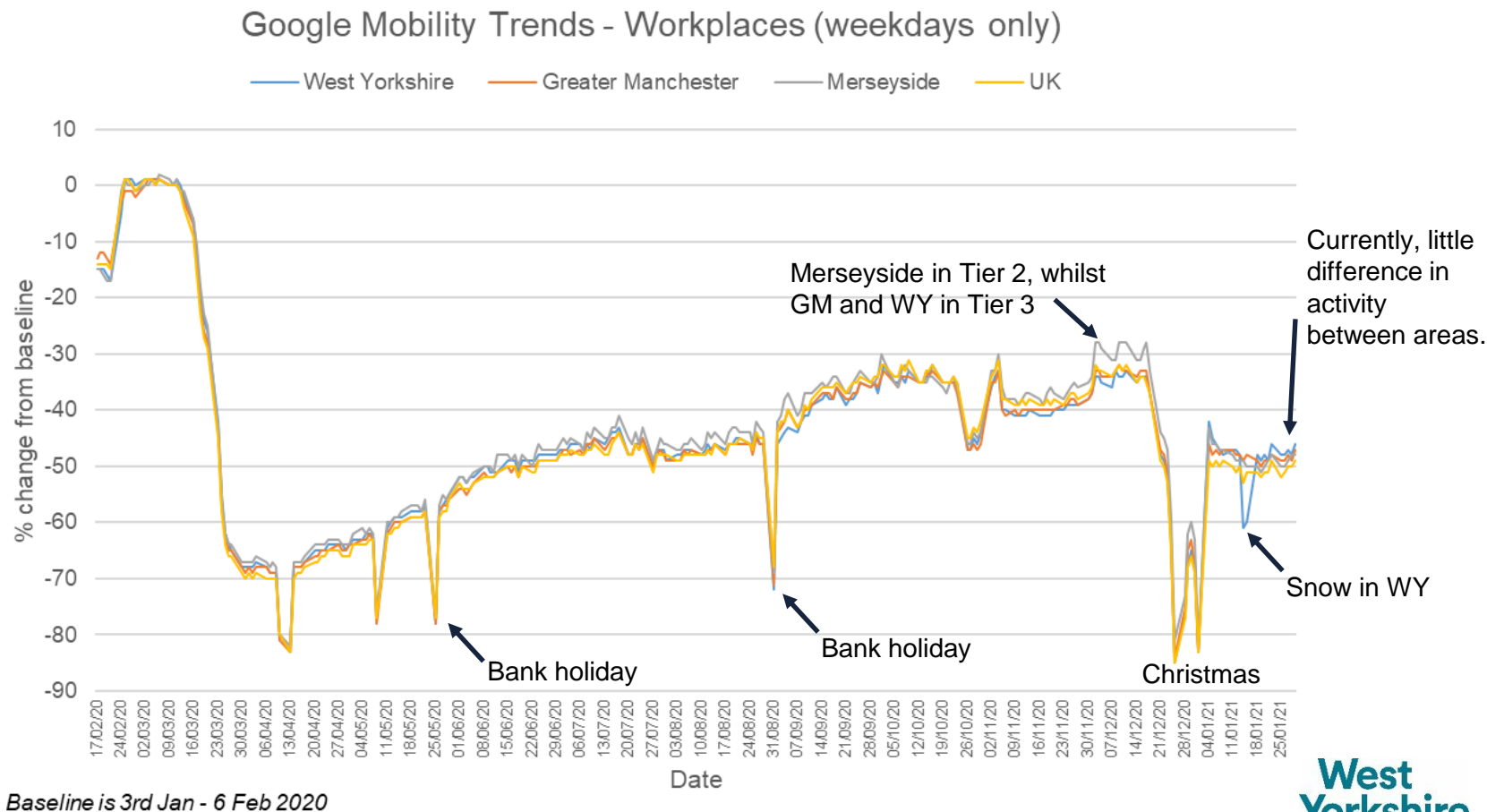
■ Lockdown 1 ■ Lockdown 2 ■ Lockdown 3



Source: Apple mobility data. The data shows relative volume of directions requests per country/region or city compared to a baseline volume on January 13th, 2020. Note that data that is sent from users' devices to the Maps service is associated with random, rotating identifiers so Apple doesn't have a profile of individual's movements and searches.

# Google Mobility Trends – West Yorkshire follows a similar pattern to other areas

The chart below reveals the trend workplace activity (from Google mobility data) in West Yorkshire (blue) compared to other areas and the UK average. Note activity is expressed as a percentage variation from a baseline period (the 5-week period between 3 Jan and 6 Feb 2020). Currently workplace activity in West Yorkshire is slightly above the UK average, but not considerably different to Greater Manchester or Merseyside.



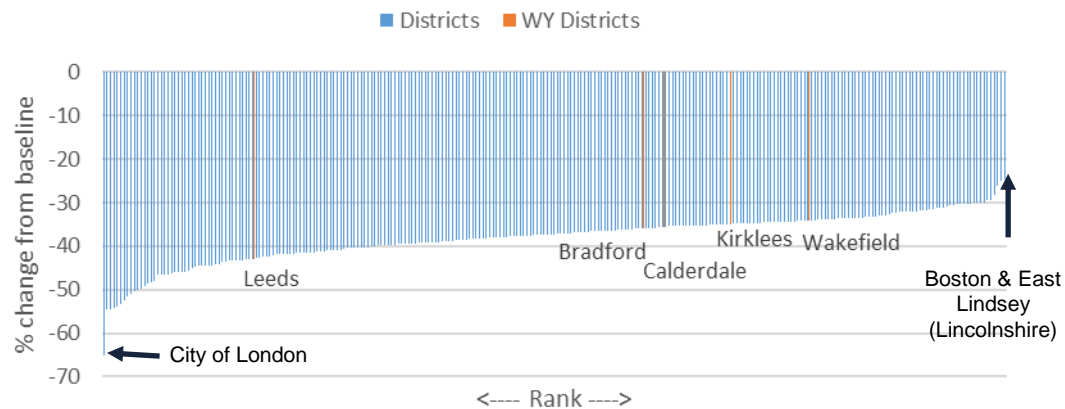
Source: Google mobility data.

# Google Mobility Trends – district level variation in January 2021 (relative to Jan 2020 baseline)

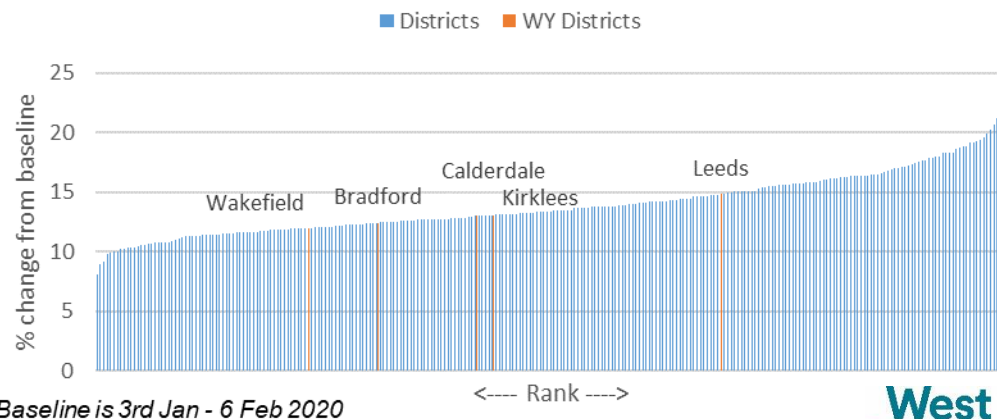
The charts to the right use Google mobility data to illustrate the relative average changes in activity (from baseline) for all districts throughout January 2021 (1<sup>st</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Jan), ranked from areas of high change (left) to low change (right). West Yorkshire districts are highlighted in red. Top chart shows activity at workplace locations and bottom shows activity at residential locations.

The data indicates that generally speaking activity levels in districts within West Yorkshire aren't considerably different to the England average (mid-point). Leeds still has very low (relative) activity in workplace locations and high (relative) activity in residential locations and notably its set apart from other areas in West Yorkshire, and likely reflects the economic /workforce differences of Leeds compared to other West Yorkshire districts (i.e. more office based jobs which are being done remotely from home).

Google mobility relative change Jan 2021 average -  
Workplace locations

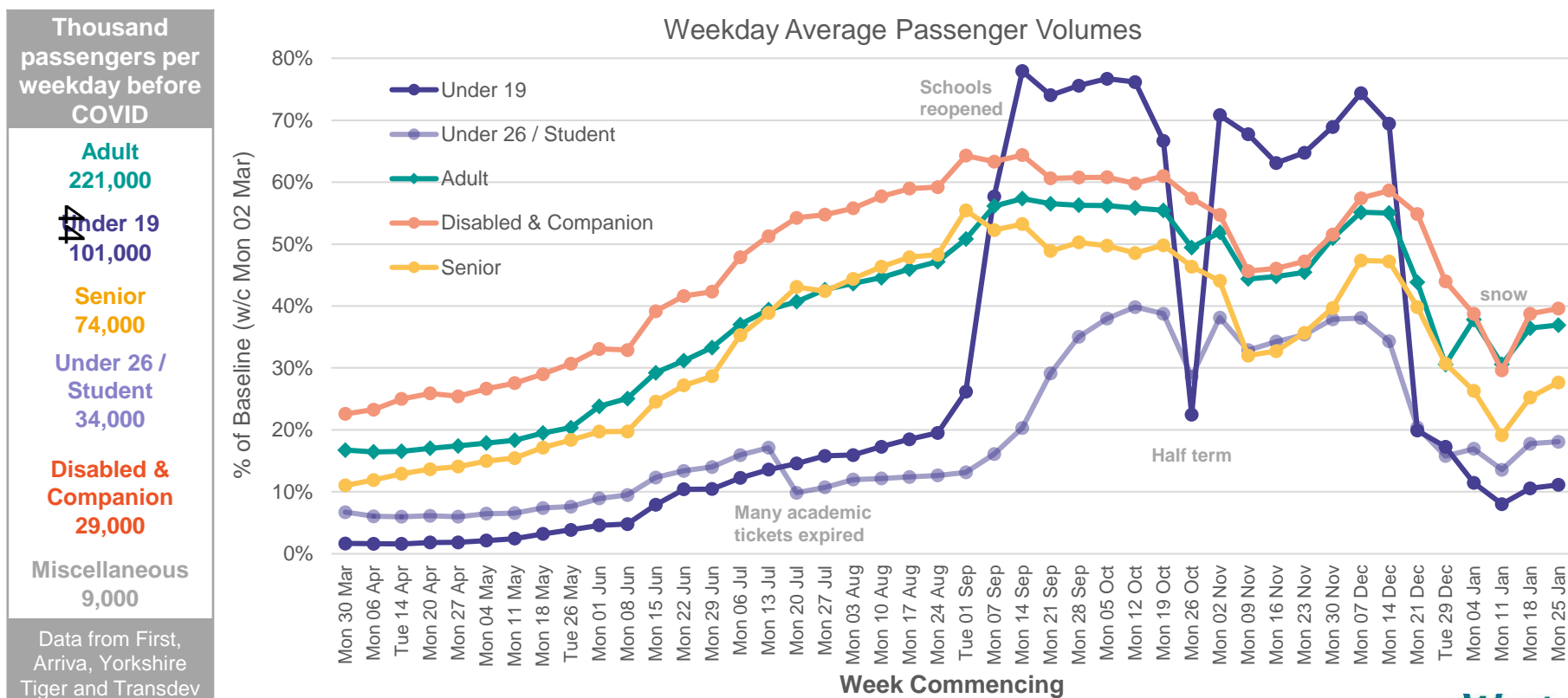


Google mobility relative change Jan 2021 average -  
Residential locations



# Bus use in the third lockdown is more similar to levels seen in June / July than to the start of the first lockdown

Data from bus ticket machines reveals that bus by Under 19s, Senior and Disabled cohorts is similar to late June and use by Under 26 / Students and Adults is more like early July. This is higher than the start of the first lockdown. Even the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January with snow disruption had higher average weekday patronage than the start of first lockdown. Data is for weekdays excluding bank holidays, with ticket types assigned to broad cohorts.

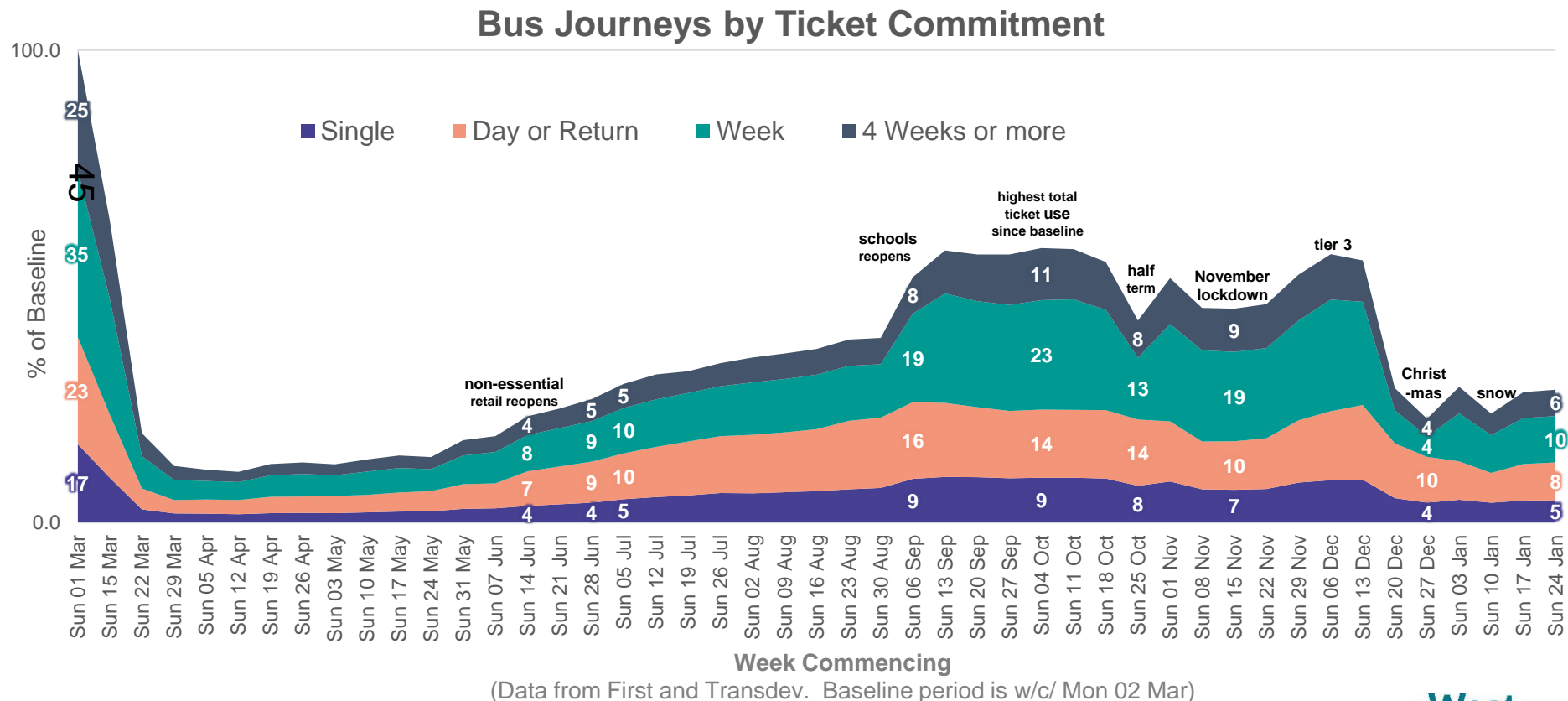


Baseline period is w/c Mon 02 Mar. Source: Bus operators electronic ticket machine data, passenger boarding locations in West Yorkshire. First, Arriva, Yorkshire Tiger and Transdev account for over 90% of bus services in West Yorkshire. Graph shows First and Transdev.



# Longer validity tickets were used slightly more & day tickets slightly less in the latest week compared to summer when total use was similar

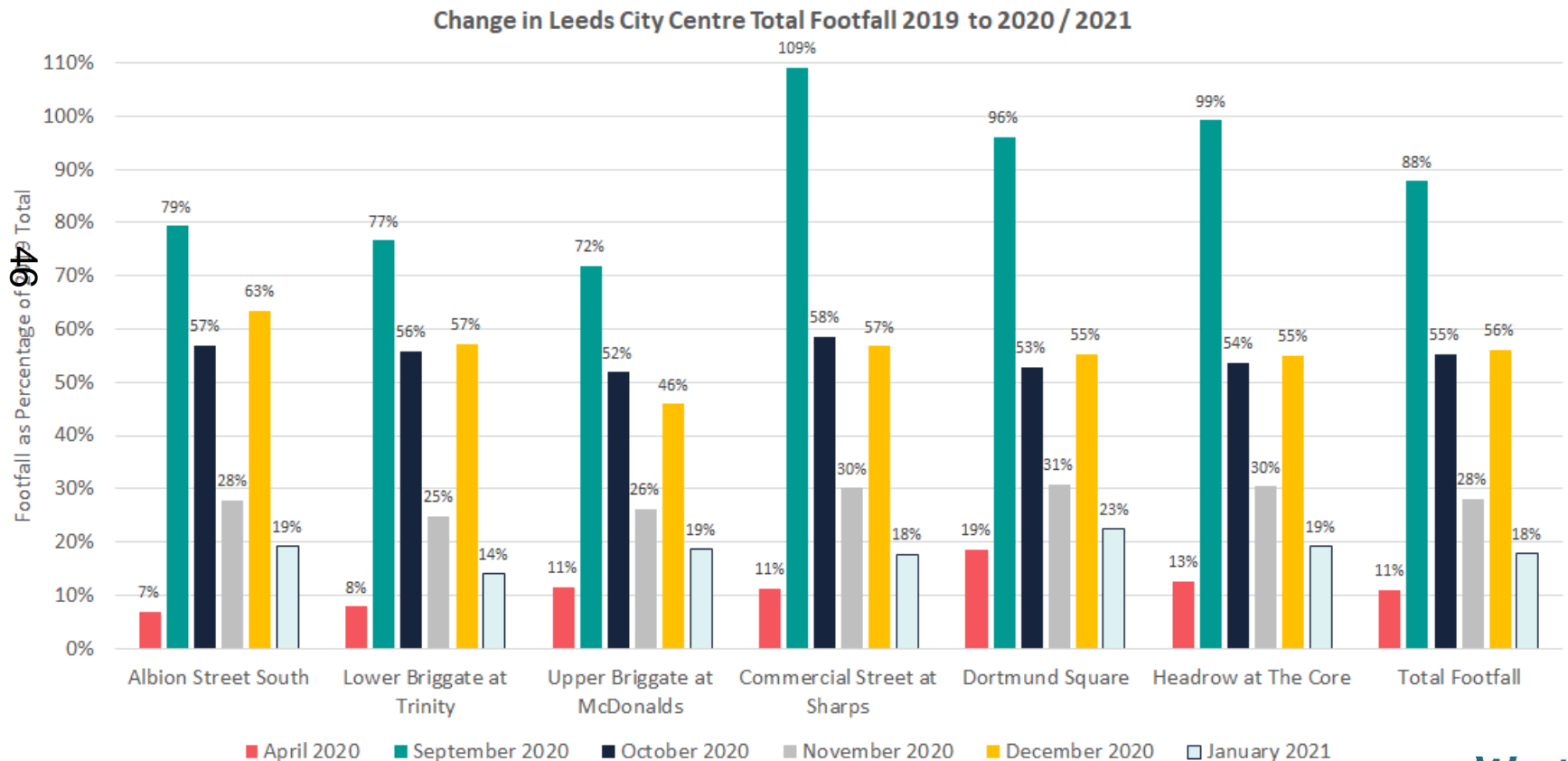
The total level of fare paying passengers in the latest data is similar that seen at the end of June / beginning of July. The use of tickets valid for a week or more was higher in the latest data while the use of day or return tickets was lower.



Baseline period is w/c Mon 02 Mar. Source: Bus operators electronic ticket machine data, passenger boarding locations in West Yorkshire. Graph shows First and Transdev.

# Leeds City Centre footfall – all camera sites show footfall is lower during the 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown, but higher than the first

The chart below illustrates footfall data from 6 fixed cameras sites in Leeds City Centre expressed as a percentage difference from the same period in 2019. The data reveals that during lockdown 3 (to-date), footfall at every site is above levels seen during lockdown 1, but is lower than in lockdown 2 (November 2020).



Source: Leeds City Council Footfall data (6 fixed camera sites).



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

**Date:** 24 February 2021

**Subject:** **COVID-19: Economic Recovery and Response**

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**Director:** Brian Archer, Director of Economic Services

**Author(s):** Ian Smyth, Head of Economic Policy

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

- 1.1 To provide the LEP Board with an update on developments around the COVID-19 crisis, including the delivery of products and services in response.

## **2. Information**

- 2.1 Since the LEP Board in January, West Yorkshire has remained under Tier 4 (Stay at Home) restrictions in national lockdown, with schools additionally operating online and home-based learning for most students.

- 2.2 It is still highly uncertain what will happen to the economy over the coming months, our work and recovery planning to date has responded to evidence and intelligence on the following key issues:

- Implications for employment, self-employment, and the skills system, with particular links to the furlough situation moving forward.
- Cash flow and immediate access to finance for businesses.
- The impact of local and national restrictions on output and activity.
- Pressures for the transport system and on town/city centres.
- Safe return to work as restrictions are eased.
- Addition disruption and change required for businesses as a result of the UK's exit from the European Union (EU).

### Business Support and Engagement

- 2.3 Government support to individuals and businesses has been made available through each stage of the pandemic, and this section outlines the progress made on delivering that support since the last LEP Board. The support available brings together both nationally and locally funded projects, ensuring comprehensive support for businesses.

- 2.4 As things stand, all support is in place until 31 March 2021 but, with the Government due to make a major announcement on 22 February to articulate the “roadmap” out of restrictions, this will be kept under review. The LEP will continue to make the case for additional support as is required to ensure the future recovery of the West Yorkshire economy. Discussions continue with Government and partners on extending several of the schemes.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>No. of Businesses Supported</b>	<b>Delivery Partners</b>
Local Authority Grants (Nov 20 onwards – end linked to ongoing restrictions)	£145m actual	60,000 payments	Local Authorities
Additional Restrictions Grant	£9m actual	2,000 payments	Local Authorities
COVID-19 Recovery Grants (ERDF & LGF)	£1m actual £2.2m committed	300 actual 800 committed	Umi Commercial
Digital Resilience Vouchers (up to £5,000)	£1.06m	400 actual Project complete	Leeds City Council
Peer Learning Project	£90,000	33 actual	University of Leeds Business School
Small Business Membership Scheme – allowing access to legal, HR, financial and wellbeing support	£300,000	450 actual	W&NY Chamber, Mid-Yorkshire Chamber, FSB
Cyber Security Support Scheme	£100,000	70 actual	North East Business Resilience Centre
Business Resilience Webinars	£15,000	45 actual	Biskit

- 2.5 The discretionary elements of the grants schemes have been used across West Yorkshire to support a broader range of firms and sectors, informed by a framework developed with council partners. This has included supporting private day nurseries, suppliers to retail, leisure and hospitality (e.g. events companies and food & drink wholesalers and manufacturers), some other parts of manufacturing reliant on leisure and hospitality, some sections of the self-employed community (i.e. those unable to access meaningful support from the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme or Universal Credit), businesses not within the Business Rates system e.g. those in shared

service centres and managed workspace, and larger SMEs that can evidence a significant impact on income.

- 2.6 Businesses across the City Region are also being impacted by the need to adjust to the new requirements brought about by the end of the transition period of the UK's exit from the European Union at the beginning of the year. The LEP has put in place a wide range of support for businesses, all in place for an initial period to 31 March 2021, the progress of which is summarised in the table below.

<b>Project</b>	<b>No. of Businesses Supported</b>	<b>Delivery Partner</b>
<b>EU Transition support service</b> (Yorkshire and Humber service, commissioned by the CA/LEP)	115 (+33 from last week, driven by Blueberry see <i>below</i> )	Enterprise Growth Solutions (EGS), & other Y&H LEPs
<b>Telemarketing outreach service</b> (Leeds City Region, Y& NY)	198	Blueberry Ltd
<b>EU Exit legal advice &amp; support</b> (Leeds City Region, Y&NY)	3 (delivery began 22 Jan, more promotion being done)	Squire Patton Boggs
<b>EU Transition webinars</b> (Yorkshire and Humber)	42	Greenborough Management Ltd
<b>Webinars to help businesses internationalise marketing activity</b> (Yorkshire and Humber)	Target 150+ (Delivery begins 23 Feb).	UMi Commercial
<b>Trade related documentation support and advice</b> (Leeds & Bradford, plus Y&NY)	121 (+22 from previous week)	Chamber International
<b>Trade related documentation support and advice</b> (Wakefield, Calderdale & Kirklees)	53 (delivery began 22 Jan)	Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce

#### Employment and Skills support

- 2.7 The Combined Authority and LEP also has a range of support available to individuals to better equip them in the labour market during a period when unemployment, having already risen to 5%, is expected to rise much further once Government furlough support ends – potentially resulting in around 2.5 million being unemployed before the situation improves.

- 2.8 The repurposed Employment Hubs are a key part of the Combined Authority and LEP response to COVID-19, providing a 'one stop shop' for job seekers of any age and for employers recruiting or making redundancies. As of 29 January, we have supported 602 individuals and 114 businesses (59 of these business enquiries were regarding the Kickstart scheme). The repurposed element of Hub programme is being continued with the support of part of a recently agreed £13.5m strategic employment and skills package agreed by the Combined Authority to respond to the impacts of the crisis. Discussions with local authorities and other stakeholders are progressing to ensure the approach being developed provides the right support to the increasing number of individuals who are unemployed, at risk of redundancy or seeking alternative employment/career routes to access training/retraining and employment support.
- 2.9 The adult re-training programme, [re]boot, is another key part of the Combined Authority's response to the crisis, giving adults the chance to upskill, gain new skills/qualifications and improve their employment options particularly within key regional sectors, focused on construction, digital, manufacturing and engineering and the fast-growing creative sector. Since its launch in November 2019, the programme has supported over 450 individuals to upskill, and in December alone the [re]boot careers changers page received 1,117 page views; 12.66% of all website traffic. This service is also in the process of being extended and expanded as part of the £13.5m package agreed by the Combined Authority.

#### Implementing the Economic Recovery Plan

- 2.10 The longer-term planning for economic recovery for West Yorkshire continues to be overseen by the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Board<sup>1</sup>, which is a working group of the Combined Authority and brings together the five West Yorkshire Leaders and LEP Chair with partners from the private sector, trade unions, public bodies and the third sector, to develop robust plans for the region's economic recovery and to help build an inclusive and sustainable economy for the future.
- 2.11 A first version of the Economic Recovery Plan was produced with input from a wide range of stakeholders including the LEP Board and its Panels and endorsed by the Combined Authority on 4 September. A review of the Plan is underway to reflect the progression of the crisis since September and the resulting impacts, which will be brought forward for endorsement in due course. The revised Plan will provide an update against the underpinning economic scenarios, reflect the progress made so far in implementing the Plan and will refresh the priorities and proposals. It will also add a further distinct proposition that seeks to harness the essential contribution to recovery of the West Yorkshire culture and creative arts sectors, which is being developed in collaboration with local authority partners.

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<sup>1</sup> Further details on the full membership and terms of reference of the recovery board, and to the content of the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan can be found at: <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/erb>

- 2.12 Alongside the recovery plan update, work continues on implementing elements of the recovery plan within existing City Region resources. This follows from the November Spending Review announcements which did not detail any Government funding to support the delivery of regional and local economic recovery plans. A submission to the Treasury, again drawing attention to the key aspects of the Economic Recovery Plan (and Transport Recovery Plan) that cannot be progressed within current resources, has been made to inform the Budget currently scheduled for 3 March 2021.
- 2.13 On 27 November, the Combined Authority approved £13.5m of gainshare funding to support immediate priority recovery programmes around skills and retraining to support people to re-enter the workforce quickly. On 9 March 2021 it will consider three further programmes for support focussed on the key gaps that are priorities for investment to kickstart progress on key aspects of the Recovery Plan that will create sustainable jobs and business opportunities.

### ***Entrepreneurship***

- 2.14 Further details on this proposed programme that will promote, and support entrepreneurship can be found in the paper for agenda item 8. The proposal is to encourage individuals from all our diverse communities to explore establishing their own enterprise and providing the right opportunity and support if they decide to do so - leading to the creation of new businesses and jobs.

### ***Net Zero Carbon Pipeline***

- 2.15 The net zero carbon pipeline programme is a critical building block of our plans to achieve net zero by 2038. To be fully able to accelerate deployment of measures and to capitalise on current and future funding streams to tackle the climate emergency and maximise job creation potential in economic recovery, West Yorkshire needs to develop a long-term pipeline of investment ready projects. This proposal formed part of the Net Zero Carbon proposition developed as part of the economic recovery plan.
- 2.16 The exact nature of the projects to initially be included in the pipeline is yet to be defined, however the work to develop it will be split into four broad stages: evidence gathering; project identification; project development; and promotion. Areas considered will include energy, buildings, infrastructure, business support and retrofitting homes.
- 2.17 External support will be needed initially for the pipeline to ensure it can mobilise quickly.

### ***Health Tech and Health Innovation***

- 2.18 The proposal for health tech is also rooted in a distinct proposition of the Recovery Plan and focusses on the need to build capacity across the system to support ambitions to make Leeds City Region the leading health tech cluster nationally.
- 2.19 There is an opportunity for the region to bring together a significantly more coherent offer around health innovation focused around three ambitions of

Discover (ideas generation), Develop (testing and commercialisation) and Deploy (adoption into the health system). Resources are therefore required to bring both some coordination and leadership to the entire journey.

- 2.20 The proposed programme is to begin the journey: to help establish of the structures needed to drive the City Region forward as a regional, national and international healthtech cluster. The aspiration ultimately, is to develop a team, sitting across partner organisations to work together to support the healthtech innovation lifecycle, but initial funding will ensure momentum with a Health Innovation Lead (and support) as a minimum resource.
- 2.21 Early indications show a pipeline of potential projects in excess of £10m (although these have not been appraised or evaluated for strategic fit). Many of these schemes are in development but will need an injection of capital to kick start delivery and scale up. These will be subject to separate funding decisions.

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

- 3.1 Clean growth will continue to be supported through the products delivered in response to COVID-19 and is at the heart of the Economic Recovery Plan as an overarching goal.
- 3.2 The proposal to prioritise the building of a pipeline of low carbon and carbon-saving interventions is an important step to ensuring the Combined Authority has a robust investment prospectus to invest against as resources become available, that will ultimately deliver sustainable change and progress against the carbon emission pathways that have been identified as critical in West Yorkshire achieving net-zero emissions by 2038.

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

- 4.1 Inclusive growth is at the heart of the Recovery Plan, and the further proposed investments all provide opportunity for improved economic wellbeing and quality of life for people and communities across West Yorkshire. While proposals are at an early stage, there will be concerted focus as they are further developed to deliver benefits to the broadest possible cross-section of people and communities.
- 4.2 Investing in tackling the climate emergency provides the opportunity not only to protect communities from the impact of climate change but will also generate jobs and economic opportunities in new green sectors.
- 4.3 Jobs created through investing in health tech will tend to be relatively highly skilled and productive, but the resulting health benefits from innovation lead to improved wellbeing and quality of life for everyone in West Yorkshire.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 Existing business and employment support are being delivered using agreed financial resources. Funding requirements for individual proposals will be set out as the proposals are developed and presented to the Combined Authority for decision.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 Delivery of some of the proposed products will require contractual approvals from Government, and/or new funding allocations that would result in new contractual obligations for the Combined Authority.

## **7. Staffing Implications**

- 7.1 Existing business and employment support are being delivered through established staff resources. The resourcing implications of the further proposed investments to support economic recovery will be established and detailed as the proposals are developed.

## **8. External Consultees**

- 8.1 No specific or official external consultations have been undertaken in relation to this report. However, it has been informed by ongoing dialogue and consultation with LEP Panels and wide range of partners, including local authorities, the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Board, universities and colleges, business representative and membership bodies, and direct with some individual businesses.

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 That the LEP Board notes the progress on delivering the response to the crisis.
- 9.2 That the LEP Board notes the steps being taken to develop a second version of the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan, including the development of a distinct proposition focussed on culture and the creative arts.
- 9.3 That the LEP Board broadly endorses the three areas of focus for investment to kickstart progress on the Recovery Plan propositions and provides a steer on the detailed development of proposals to ensure the investment is maximised in terms of its economic impact and contribution to inclusive growth.

## **10. Background Documents**

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

## **11. Appendices**

- 11.1 There are no appendices to this report.

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

**Date:** 24 February 2021

**Subject:** **Place Panel**

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**Director:** Alan Reiss, Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications

**Author:** Judith Furlonger, Policy Manager

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

- 1.1 To provide the LEP Board with a report on the work of the Place Panel.

## **2. Information**

### Chair's Update

- 2.1 Place Panel is invited to comment on and input into the development of policy across a number of items. The aim is for panel members to shape future agendas and to discuss at an early stage of policy development and to directly influence the work of the Combined Authority.
- 2.2 The Panel considered a report to provide an update on the work of West Yorkshire Housing Partnership (WYHP) representing regional social housing providers. Following a presentation by Helen Lennon, chair of the Partnership, the Panel discussed closer collaboration working with the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership.
- 2.3 The Panel considered a report to provide feedback on the consultation phase of the development of the Place Narrative. The Panel discussed and agreed to endorse the final draft of the report prior to going to the Combined Authority for approval as part of the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF).
- 2.4 The Panel considered a report to update on progress with the Housing Pipeline Revenue Fund and Brownfield Housing Fund (BHF) including a proposed call for projects, further to those projects identified via the pipeline. The Panel was asked to endorse the refreshed West Yorkshire Strategic Housing Pipeline, which will be supported using the revenue funding and, where suitable, the Brownfield Housing Fund.
- 2.5 The Panel considered a report to give an update on the national Green Infrastructure Standards Trial (GIST) to test and develop a national Standards

Framework for Green Infrastructure. The Combined Authority's involvement in the national trial was confirmed as part of the West Yorkshire Devolution Deal signed in March 2020. Participation in the trial forms part of a wider workstream on spatial planning and tackling climate emergency, which is being progressed as part of the transition to a Mayoral Combined Authority.

- 2.6 The Panel considered a report to provide an update on delivery of the Leeds City Region Enterprise Zone to inform discussion on funding for residual EZ and future commercial sites beyond March 2021 and was asked to note the contents of the report. A new commercial pipeline is expected to emerge over the course of the next financial year as the results of a recent commission are evaluated. This will complement work already underway on a new Commercial Investment Fund. It is intended that the residual EZ sites will form part of this new commercial pipeline.

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

- 3.1 The work outlined in this report is vital to ensuring that the city region can create clean growth and decarbonise key sectors by 2038

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

- 4.1 The work outlined in this report is vital to ensuring that inclusive growth is strongly integrated within LEP agendas and can have a significant positive impact on achieving inclusive economic growth within the work of the Place Panel.

### **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 legal implications directly arising from this report.

### **8. External Consultees**

- 8.1 None

### **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 To note the contents of the report.

### **10. Background Documents**

- 10.1 None

## **11. Appendices**

11.1 None

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

**Date:** 24 February 2021

**Subject:** **LEP Capital Programme (Investment Committee)**

**Director:** Melanie Corcoran, Director of Delivery

**Author:** Lynn Cooper, Portfolio Lead, Portfolio Management Office

## 1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To inform the LEP Board of the progress made implementing the LEP capital programme for 2020/21. The report provides an update on capital expenditure at quarter 3 2020/21, Growth Deal Annual Performance Review, the Growth Deal economic development expenditure forecasts and closure and Getting Building Fund approvals.

## 2 Information

### Capital Programme

- 2.1 Table 1 below summarises the expenditure as at quarter 2 on the LEP capital programme in 2020/21 against the in-year forecast:

**Table 1**

Capital Programme Expenditure 2020/21	Budget Forecast February 2020	In-Year Forecast June 2020	Actual Quarter 2 2020/21
<b>Growth Deal Programme</b>			
Priority 1 Growing business	£14,809,439	£11,368,691	£3,484,967
Priority 2 Skilled People and Better Jobs	£667,110	£667,273	£0
Priority 3 Clean Energy	£741,887	£1,022,946	£174,138
Priority 4a Housing and Regeneration	£6,500,000	£8,845,000	£0
Priority 4c Economic Resilience	£4,181,524	£4,279,598	£1,209,054
Priority 4d Enterprise Zones	£12,337,000	£15,699,938	£7,617,193
Growth Deal - Other	£2,000,000	£2,500,000	£1,126,062
<b>Growth Deal Economic Development Total</b>	<b>£41,236,960</b>	<b>£44,383,446</b>	<b>£13,611,414</b>
Priority 4b West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund	£110,670,000	£87,384,018	£14,244,863
Broadband	£2,608,437	£2,198,052	£68,641
Getting Building Fund*	£0	£13,550,000	£0
<b>Total Capital Spend</b>	<b>£154,515,397</b>	<b>£147,515,516</b>	<b>£27,924,919</b>
*New funding programme			

- 2.2 Claims and monitoring for quarter 3 are currently being processed and will be reported at the next Investment Committee meeting in March.

- 2.3 There is an increase of £1.44 million spend on the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) for quarter 2 against the amount reported in December 2020. This relates to early spend on development costs in 2019/20 prior to the approval of the TCF programme. This was originally funded through the Transport Fund which has now been formally transferred to TCF.

#### Annual Performance Review

- 2.4 The Annual Performance Review (APR) for 2020/21 undertaken by the Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLOG) took place on 27 January 2021. As in previous years the APR will cover three areas: Strategic Impact, Governance and Delivery. However, LEPs will no longer be given a ranking e.g. adequate, good, excellent, instead there will be an outcomes based approach with findings of 'met' or 'action needed'. The APR will include a review of delivery against both the Growth Deal and the Getting Building Fund (GBF) and is a key milestone in the process of confirming GBF payments for 2021/22.
- 2.5 In preparation for the meeting information was submitted to address key questions as required by CLOG. Whilst information on expenditure was required the question focussed on the level of contracted spend and any risk to achieving Local Growth Fund (LGF) being fully contracted by the end of 2020/21. The key message for the Leeds City Region is that the delivery of and reporting of outputs will continue until 31 March 2024 and the full financial allocation of LGF, for both the economic development projects and the Transport Fund, is now fully committed as demonstrated in Table 2:

**Table 2**

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>Total Contractually Committed to date</b>
Growth Deal Economic Development	£235,450,000	£244,425,675
Transport Fund	£280,900,000	£271,701,996
<b>Total</b>	<b>£516,350,000</b>	<b>£516,127,671</b>

#### Growth Deal Expenditure

- 2.6 The Growth Deal economic development programme is now in its final quarter, the current forecast of programme spend is as follows:

**Table 3**

<b>Economic Development Allocation</b>	<b>£235,450,000</b>
Spend to end of 2019/20	£194,650,211
<b>Balance to be spent in 2020/21</b>	<b>£40,799,789</b>

Quarter 1 - 3 2020/21 spend	£22,904,583
Current forecast	£24,696,609
<b>Forecast 2020/21</b>	<b>£47,601,192</b>
Overprogramming	£6,801,403
Forecast spend at risk of underspend	£4,586,450

- 2.7 The programme remains overprogrammed but whilst this is the case there are a number of projects where there is a risk of underspend / slippage. Nevertheless the programme is still expected to overspend.
- 2.8 Whilst the aim of overprogramming is to not to overspend the message to all projects has been to maximise spend against approved funding wherever possible. The reason for this is that overspend can be used to offset against other programmes where they are unlikely to achieve target spend in 2020/21. These programmes include the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund and the Getting Building Fund. Whilst ultimately this spend will need to be repaid it can remain offset within the Combined Authority accounts over future years.
- 2.9 It is also important where there is momentum on delivery that this is not curtailed as funding opportunities are likely to arise in the near future to support ongoing or shovel ready projects.

#### Growth Deal Economic Development Projects Closedown

- 2.10 The closedown of the Growth Deal portfolio is underway with additional temporary resource in place to coordinate and align closure of economic development projects and programmes by June 2021. An officer programme board has been established to support this process, enabling forward planning and flexible deployment of resources where required.
- 2.11 Of the 57 economic development projects (listed in Appendix 1) included in the Growth Deal, 15 have achieved decision point 7 (financial closure) to date, the aim is for the remaining 42 to progress through the assurance process by the end of June.
- 2.12 The Policy, Strategy and Communications Directorate is engaged with closedown to ensure that lessons learnt are captured, and that work is aligned with the emerging evaluation strategy. A communications plan is in development to ensure Growth Deal success stories are communicated to the public.
- 2.13 Work is also ongoing to capture benefits realised, and ongoing follow up of outputs and outstanding contract issues (including financial (loans, overage) legal (contract clauses)) will transition from the Delivery Directorate to Corporate Services Directorate following formal financial closure of each project.

#### Getting Building Fund

- 2.14 The approval of project funding through the Getting Building Fund is progressing well. All but two projects are expected to be approved by the end of March 2021. To date five projects have been approved for a total of £16.24 million. It is forecast that 14 projects, totalling £48 million will be approved by end of March 2021.

### Enterprise Zones and Commercial Sites

- 2.15 The Combined Authority received £20 million of Local Growth Fund for delivery of Enterprise Zones under its Growth Deal 3 allocation and is on track to spend this allocation by the 31 March 2021 deadline.
- 2.16 Five of the ten sites are on site with some close to completion. A further two (Parry Lane and Langthwaite) will continue enabling works into next financial year, funded through the Getting Building Fund.
- 2.17 A new commercial pipeline is expected to emerge over the course of the next financial year, which will complement work already underway on a new Commercial Investment Fund. It is intended that the residual EZ sites will form part of this new commercial pipeline.
- 2.18 MCA status offers a range of new tools to help support the future development of commercial / employment space, e.g. borrowing for non-transport schemes; Compulsory Purchase; Mayoral Development Company. Use of these tools will be subject to agreement with the relevant local authority.
- 2.19 New funding streams announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review may offer an opportunity to take forward residual EZ sites. However, further details on the funding will be required in order to establish the relevance to fund enterprise zone activities.

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

- 3.1 The Combined Authority has taken action to ensure all decisions we make include Climate Emergency considerations. The Combined Authority:
  - Has strengthened how clean growth and climate change impacts are considered as part of all schemes that come through the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework.
  - Requires LEP and the Combined Authority reports to include clean growth / tackling the Climate Emergency implications, including qualitative impact assessments.
- 3.2 To fully strengthen decision making across the whole of the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework a robust, quantifiable methodology and tool for assessing all new schemes predicted carbon emissions/wider clean growth impacts is being developed. Plans for the use of the toolkit will be reported to the Combined Authority. The toolkit will be used to assess schemes currently going through the assurance process from early 2021, with results from these assessments expected by June 2021. At the same time, the tool will be incorporated into the Assurance Framework so that it can be used to assess future proposals as they progress through the assurance process. This part of the commission will involve a significant training element to ensure carbon assessment is properly embedded in the assurance process. It is anticipated that the commission will be completed by summer 2021. A more detailed report will be presented to the March Combined Authority meeting with



regards the Phase 2 Carbon Impact recommendations, which will set out the proposed changes to our business case processes for appraising carbon.

- 3.3 Clean growth, including climate change, impact assessment / considerations are all now included in all Capital Spending and Project Approvals reports. This ensures that the business cases now reflect the Leeds City Region Climate Emergency priority and evidence that they will reduce carbon emissions (both directly and indirectly).

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

- 4.1 This report does not directly impact on Inclusive Growth; this is assessed as part of the appraisal of each project through the assurance framework and reported to the Investment Committee in the Capital Spending and Project Approvals report.

#### **5 Financial implications**

- 5.1 Financial implications are included within the body of the 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 That the LEP Board notes the progress of the LEP capital programme for 2020/21.

#### **10 Background Documents**

- 10.1 None.

#### **11 Appendices**

- 11.1 None.

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SEP Priority	Project Name	Appendix 1
Priority 1 - Growing Business	Access to Capital Grants Programme	
	Business Expansion Fund	
	Business Growth Programme	
	Huddersfield Incubation and Innovation Programme	
	Institute for High Speed Rail and System Integration	
	Leeds University Innovation Centre	
Priority 2 - Skilled People and Better Jobs	Bradford College	
	Calderdale College	
	Kirklees College - Dewsbury Learning Quarter	
	Kirklees College - Process Manufacturing Centre	
	Leeds City College - Printworks	
	Leeds City College - Quarry Hill	
	Leeds College of Building	
	Selby College	
	Shipley College - Mill	
	Shipley College - Salt Building	
	Wakefield College	
Priority 3 - Clean Energy and Economic Resilience	Energy Accelerator	
	Leeds District Heat Network	
	Resource Efficiency Fund	
	Resource Efficiency Fund 2	
Priority 4a - Housing and Regeneration	Tackling Fuel Poverty	
	Barnsley Town Centre	
	Bradford - One City Park	
	Bradford Heritage Buildings - Conditioning House	
	Bradford Heritage Buildings - High Point	
	Bradford Odeon	
	Dewsbury Riverside	
	East Leeds Housing Growth - Brownfield Sites	
	East Leeds Housing Growth - Red Hall	
	Halifax - Beech Hill	
	Halifax Town Centre (Northgate House)	
	Kirklees Housing Sites	
	Leeds - Bath Road	
	New Bolton Woods	
	Wakefield Civic Quarter	
	Wakefield South East Gateway - Kirkgate	
	Wakefield South East Gateway - Rutland Mill	
	York Central	
	York Guildhall	
Priority 4c - Economic Resilience Programme	Flood Alleviation - Brighouse and Clifton	
	Flood Alleviation - Hebden Bridge	
	Flood Alleviation - Leeds (FAS1)	
	Flood Alleviation - Leeds (FAS2)	
	Flood Alleviation - Mytholmroyd	
	Flood Alleviation - Skipton	
	Flood Alleviation - Wyke Beck	
	Natural Flood Management - Colne and Calder	
	Natural Flood Management - Upper Aire	
Priority 4d - Enterprise Zone Development	EZ - Bradford - Gain Lane	
	EZ - Bradford - Parry Lane	
	EZ - Bradford - Staithgate Lane	
	EZ - Calderdale - Clifton Business Park	
	EZ - Leeds - Aire Valley	
	EZ - Programme	
	EZ - Wakefield - Langthwaite Business Park Extension	
	EZ - Wakefield - South Kirkby Business Park	

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

**Date:** 24 February 2021

**Subject:** **COVID-19 Economic Recovery – Entrepreneurship**

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**Director:** Alan Reiss, Director Policy Strategy and Communications

**Author(s):** Sarah Bowes, Policy Manager, Innovation and Digital

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

- 1.1 To inform a discussion on how to realise our Economic Recovery Plan ambitions around Entrepreneurship.

## **2. Information**

### Context

- 2.1 Central to the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan is the priority for good jobs and resilient businesses. As the impact of COVID-19 on the economy has developed, Government programmes such as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and local authority administered grants have been critical in ensuring the survival of jobs and businesses, but nonetheless we will enter recovery with higher levels of employment and with a difficult environment for businesses to offer new job opportunities.
- 2.2 It is therefore vital that our regional recovery plan includes ambitious proposals to grow businesses and create jobs. One of the distinct propositions within our Economic Recovery Plan is to focus especially on Entrepreneurship<sup>1</sup>, encouraging individuals from all our diverse communities to explore establishing their own enterprise, and providing the right opportunity and support if they decide to do so. From experience of previous programmes and interventions, for this to be successful there needs to be a 'ladder of enterprise support', available for all potential entrepreneurs, even those who may have never considered it, and no matter where they are on their journeys or what type of new venture they plan to start. It will also be vital to have effective community level engagement to reach into our diverse communities, finding

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<sup>1</sup> The full proposition document is available here: <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/4419/recovery-proposition-innovation-driven-entrepreneurship-20200826.pdf>

ways to engage groups that currently might face additional barriers to becoming an entrepreneur or accessing support to do so.

### An Entrepreneurship proposition

- 2.3 Our Entrepreneurship proposition, endorsed previously, sets out our ambition and proposed approach, which was balanced between the need to support individuals in immediate economic recovery, and the opportunities through re-imagining and resilience to strengthen a lasting culture of entrepreneurship that helps to drive the regional economy and deliver inclusive growth:
- We are focussed on increasing the diversity of entrepreneurship in the region (building for example on the one in nine (11%) West Yorkshire business owners/directors from an ethnic minority background)
  - We must also look to increase the volume of entrepreneurs, supporting survival beyond year one as a key measure (the business birth rate of 12.3% is a little lower than the UK as a whole, meaning there is still more potential)
  - We want entrepreneurs who will tackle some of the key post-Covid challenges identified for our city region (building on the 69% of businesses in the 2020 Leeds City Region Business Survey said they had undertaken some form of innovation in the past three years)
  - Central to our strategy is building on existing ecosystem infrastructure, particularly as they extend into particular communities, and to focus on where additional coordination or capacity can add real value.
- 2.4 The Entrepreneurship proposition in the Economic Recovery Plan asks Government for £340m over the next five years. In the absence of this full funding, the Combined Authority and LEP have been working on what can be done with initial local investment that still focusses on ensuring a full 'ladder of enterprise support'. To develop these proposals, a workshop has been held in January with key stakeholders in the existing ecosystem for support, chaired by the Chair of the Business, Innovation and Growth Panel of the LEP, drawing on learning from past programmes and current best practice. Contributors included Local Authority officers, and members of the BIG Panel, ES Panel, IGPP Panel and LEP Board.
- 2.5 The following three areas were proposed as elements of the ecosystem that would benefit from further investment now:

#### **Community based entrepreneur development**

- Regional campaign to raise awareness of enterprise opportunities, particularly targeting demographics that may be less likely to consider starting their own business or seeking external support to do so
- A free "exploring enterprise" course
- A series of free workshops on key entrepreneurship topics
- A young people's enterprise awareness programme

### **New business start-up programme**

- complement the already well-established and successful Ad:Venture programme (supporting new-starts and early-years firms up to three years of trading), and local community based interventions
- a rolling workshop / webinar programme to provide practical advice and guidance sessions to people setting up businesses
- outreach at community level with Local Authorities to engage underrepresented groups
- development fund to support innovative pilot projects targeting specific groups and/or business models
- some one-to-one coaching and mentoring

### **High growth innovation driven start-ups programme**

- A pre start accelerator-type model (with or without a sector focus), based on low volume, high intensity, with maximum impact
- Linked to, but not at this stage providing, seed funding opportunities and investment readiness
- Focussed on supporting entrepreneurs to tackle some of the key post-Covid challenges identified for our city region – including especially health inequalities and the climate emergency
- There is the potential for this programme to be aligned to the BUILD pilot accelerator programme being run currently through an external provider.

2.6 Building on the successful workshop (see 2.4) we would welcome the Board's input to the further development of this entrepreneurship programme, and in particular to consider the following questions:

- To what extent do the Board agree with the three areas proposed for intervention and the principle of building a 'ladder of enterprise support'?
- How do we ensure support reaches into all of our communities, to develop a genuine pipeline of entrepreneurs that reflects our city region? Are there successful models that can be learned from that have managed to effectively engage with groups and communities that are currently under-represented in the mainstream business support ecosystem?
- How can we best utilise connection to existing provision, connectors and intermediaries – particularly within communities?
- What role can and should the LEP play as a coordinator across the entrepreneurship ecosystem? And how might the business support service of the LEP act as a gateway for this?

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

- 3.1 There are no direct implications as a result of this report. However, in the development of support for Entrepreneurs, especially those with high growth potential, there will be particular emphasis on supporting businesses that can make a positive contribution to climate related challenges.

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

- 4.1 Central to the Entrepreneurship proposition is the emphasis on encouraging individuals from all our diverse communities to explore establishing their own enterprise. As we know that some communities are less represented in business ownership currently, in designing interventions there will be a strong focus on adopting best practice to reach those communities and ensure support is accessible to them.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 New recovery products will require either increased flexibility on the use of current funding streams (e.g., grants awarded for capital investment to be used for working capital, or the procurement of professional advice with recovery/contingency planning), or new funding altogether.

### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 Delivery of some of the proposed products will require contractual approvals from Government, and/or new funding allocations that would result in new contractual obligations for the Combined Authority.

### **7. Staffing Implications**

- 7.1 Delivery of the products included in the Economic Recovery Plan may require changes to current staff roles and/or additional staff to be recruited, which will be considered through the detailed development of individual proposals.

### **8. External Consultees**

- 8.1 No specific or official external consultations have been undertaken in relation to this report. However, it has been informed by ongoing dialogue and consultation with LEP Panels and wide range of partners, including a workshop chaired by the Chair of the Business Innovation and Growth Panel.

### **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 That the LEP Board provides feedback on the questions raised at 2.6 as to how to progress with the development of Entrepreneurship support as part of our West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan.



## **10. Background Documents**

10.1 There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **11. Appendices**

11.1 None

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**Report to:** LEP Board

**Date:** 24 February 2021

**Subject:** **Employment and Skills Plan Refresh**

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**Director:** Alan Reiss, Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications

**Author:** Sonya Midgley, Policy Manager

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

- 1.1 To update the Board on the work to refresh the Employment and Skills Plan.
- 1.2 To seek the Board's endorsement to publish the refreshed Employment and Skills priorities and indicative actions as an Employment and Skills Framework. This paper summarises the key components, and a full slide pack laying out the strategic context, evidence base and objectives is included at Appendix 1,
- 1.3 A presentation will be shared at the meeting to cover the key elements and design proposals for the Framework.

## **2. Information**

- 2.1 In March 2020, the Employment and Skills Panel agreed a workplan to refresh the existing Employment and Skills Plan; Skilled People, Better Jobs (2016-2020).
- 2.2 Since then there has been significant progress against many of the Plan's high-level priorities and several significant changes in the landscape. This includes the recent publication of the cross-departmental, DfE led White Paper on FE Reform (Jan 2021), as well as the yet to be published White Paper on devolution. As the detail of these reforms emerge, they will require a detailed response, including actions for the Combined Authority and its partners.
- 2.3 It is therefore proposed that in order to remain flexible whilst ensuring that the City Region's employment and skills priorities remain strategic and clear, the work that has been done to refresh the current Employment and Skills Plan is published as an Employment and Skills Framework. The Framework will include high level priorities, indicative actions and a sectoral focus whilst allowing more detailed plans to be formed as part of the LEP's ongoing employment and skills agenda and other more detailed plans e.g., digital skills addressed through the Local Digital Skills Partnership plan.

### Review of the existing plan

2.4 To date the review of the existing plan has included:

- A review undertaken with key partners and a comprehensive analysis of progress against the existing priorities
- An extensive consultation and engagement phase on the strengths, challenges and refreshed priorities with over 200 key stakeholders and partners including employers, business intermediaries, Local Authorities, universities, colleges, students, headteachers and VCS organisations.
- An online Your Voice survey ran for four weeks in August and September, receiving 113 responses.
- A joint workshop with BIG and ESP members on the indicative actions for the revised priorities.

### Progress to date

2.5 There has been significant progress against several strategic priorities:

- The Devolution deal secured progress in key areas:
  - **Adult Education Budget (AEB) Devolution Implementation** and the **AEB Strategy** is a key Employment and Skills Plan within the Strategic Economic Framework.
  - A **Local Digital Skills Partnership** has been established to address digital exclusion, support the digital growth of SMEs and charities, and help educators and students to grow digital skills
- The **Future-Ready Skills Commission** has published its blueprint and final report for the post-16 skills system
- The Combined Authority and West Yorkshire Colleges have **Delivery Agreements** in place that set out delivery and curriculum planning against the region's skills priorities. This will be extended as a minimum to all AEB grant recipients.
- Lifetime Skills Guarantee, **Level 3 entitlement** will be delegated to the Combined Authority and aligned with AEB.

2.6 The following summarises the key Combined Authority and LEP delivery programmes and projects:

### **Careers and retraining**

- **[re]boot** offers over 18-year-olds the chance to upskill, gain new skills/qualifications and enter employment within shortage sectors
- **#futuregoals** is an all-age careers platform and campaign that showcases jobs and careers in a range of sectors, created with employers.

### **Education offer**

- **Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN)** works with 185 secondary schools and colleges to improve the destinations of young people.
- **Careers Hubs** enhance and target activity in Bradford and Kirklees as well as institutions across West Yorkshire with high SEND pupils.
- The pilot **Raising Aspiration Fund** has created employer co-designed provision targeted at students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Skills for Growth** programme enables SMEs to access education providers in a simple one stop approach with localised delivery.

### Employment Offer

- **Employment Hubs** deliver in partnership with Local Authorities to support young people aged 15-24 to access additional learning, apprenticeships and/or employment. They also engage businesses to support their workforce development including talent matching to job and apprenticeship vacancies. This programme has been extended in response to the COVID-19 crisis.
- The **Apprenticeship Levy Support service** helps businesses to either use their levy funds to recruit their own apprentices or transfer their unspent levy to other businesses seeking apprenticeship funding.

2.7 A review of progress against priorities was undertaken with partners and the following areas were identified as needing a focus in the refreshed priorities:

- Technical Education including Apprenticeships
- Digital Skills
- Basic Skills
- Diversity on the workplace and 'Good Work'
- Starting careers earlier (primary school) and making it lifelong
- Enterprise and entrepreneurship

2.8 The following principles informed the refresh:

- Be strategic and practical in content and design
- Embed the Skills Commission proposals
- Be flexible, allowing for changes and subsequent plans to align
- Be practical and allow stakeholders and partners to plan their own priorities and delivery
- Embed the priorities of the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) and other key policies, including Inclusive Growth and Climate Emergency priorities
- Be bold and ambitious outlining the actions required to meet the vision and support the case for further devolution
- Reflect the geographies of the Combined Authority and ensure that collaborative partnership work continues across the functional economic area of the region.

### Vision

- 2.9 West Yorkshire is the largest labour market in the Northern Powerhouse, with strengths in manufacturing, financial and professional services, and the rapidly developing fields of digital and healthcare technology. Our diversity, rich cultural heritage and geography makes West Yorkshire one of the country's best places to live, study and work.
- 2.10 Our vision is for West Yorkshire to be a world-leading region where investment in skills, training and education, and support from employers go hand in hand to create a diverse, inclusive, and highly skilled workforce with good jobs, leading to sustained improvements in the quality of life for all.
- 2.11 We want West Yorkshire to be a place where:
- There are no barriers to people taking up, progressing and succeeding in learning and work, and where they are supported into good employment.
  - Employers recognise the value of a diverse workforce and invest in their talent to develop the skills that will improve productivity and support progression in the workplace.
  - Individuals value lifelong learning and are able to make decisions about their development, informed by quality, relevant careers information based on the reality on the ground.
  - World class teaching and training provides flexible learning opportunities that align to the strategic needs of the local economy.

#### The refreshed priorities

- 2.12 Following the review, consultation and engagement phases, the Panel agreed that the five main priorities remained broadly correct, subject to being refreshed to capture changes in the landscape and to ensure they are future proof. The priorities have been refreshed as follows:

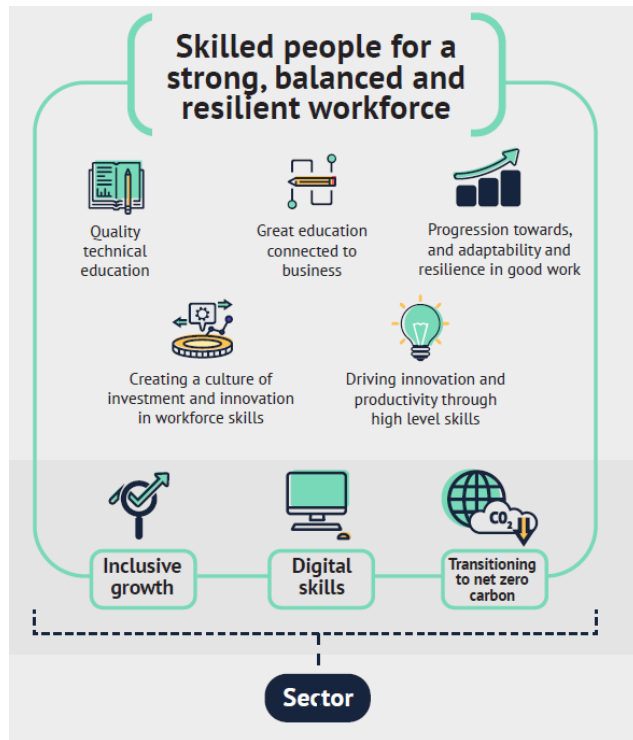
<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>REVISED</b>
More and better apprenticeships	Quality technical education
Great education connected to business	Great education connected to business
Employability, accessing jobs and realising potential	Progression towards, and adaptability and resilience in good work
Building workforce skills and attracting talent	Creating a culture of investment in workforce skills
Raising the bar on high level skills	Driving innovation and productivity through high level skills

#### Overview of the Employment and Skills Plan Framework

- 2.13 The Framework has five priorities (above) and three cross cutting themes; inclusive growth, digital skills and working towards net zero.
- 2.14 The plan also aims to address the main skills and employment barriers in each of the main industrial sectors, rather than identifying key sectors as in the previous plan. This will allow a broader engagement with employers as well as

the City Region being better able to respond to the changing needs of sectors, particularly in the economic climate created by COVID-19 and EU Exit.

**Figure: Overview of the draft Framework**



### Next Steps

- 2.15 It is proposed that the revised Employment and Skills priorities are published as a Framework that sets out the Region's strategic aims whilst allowing flexibility to produce further detail within specific plans.
- 2.16 The Combined Authority will consider the framework for endorsement at their meeting on 9 March.

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

- 3.1 The Framework is designed to ensure that all skills programme development considers contributions to tackling the climate emergency and our ambitious target to reach net zero carbon by 2038. This is a cross cutting theme in the Framework.
- 3.2 The framework sets out an ambition to work with partners through a Green Skills Partnership to develop a plan to address and provide for the specific skills needs required to meet future workforce demand and ensure a just transition for jobs at risk from decarbonisation.
- 3.3 To support the future workforce and employment opportunities presented by the scale of projects such as retrofitting buildings, the Framework sets out the need to provide quality careers information and inspiration that focuses that highlight the importance of STEM subjects

- 3.4 The priority around Quality Technical Education is clear that qualifications and training provision should be aligned to future skills needs, including in areas where job growth is forecasted.

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

- 4.1 The plan contains several priorities and indicative actions that are expected to demonstrate progress in the following areas:
- % qualified below level 2
  - Unemployment rate
  - % of employees in quality work
  - Apprenticeship starts
  - Jobs paying below Real Living Wage
  - Employment rate gap for disadvantaged groups
  - NEETs

#### **5. Financial Implications**

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

#### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 The Employment & Skills Panel, acting as the City Region's Skills Advisory Panel, is required to publish Employment and Skills priorities.

#### **7. Staffing Implications**

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

#### **8. External Consultees**

- 8.1 Over 300 stakeholders were consulted as part of the plan's development, including a Your Voice survey. The consultation and the results of the survey are published at [www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/esp](http://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/esp)

#### **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 The Board is asked to consider endorsement of the publication of an Employment and Skills Framework

#### **10. Background Documents**

- 10.1 None.

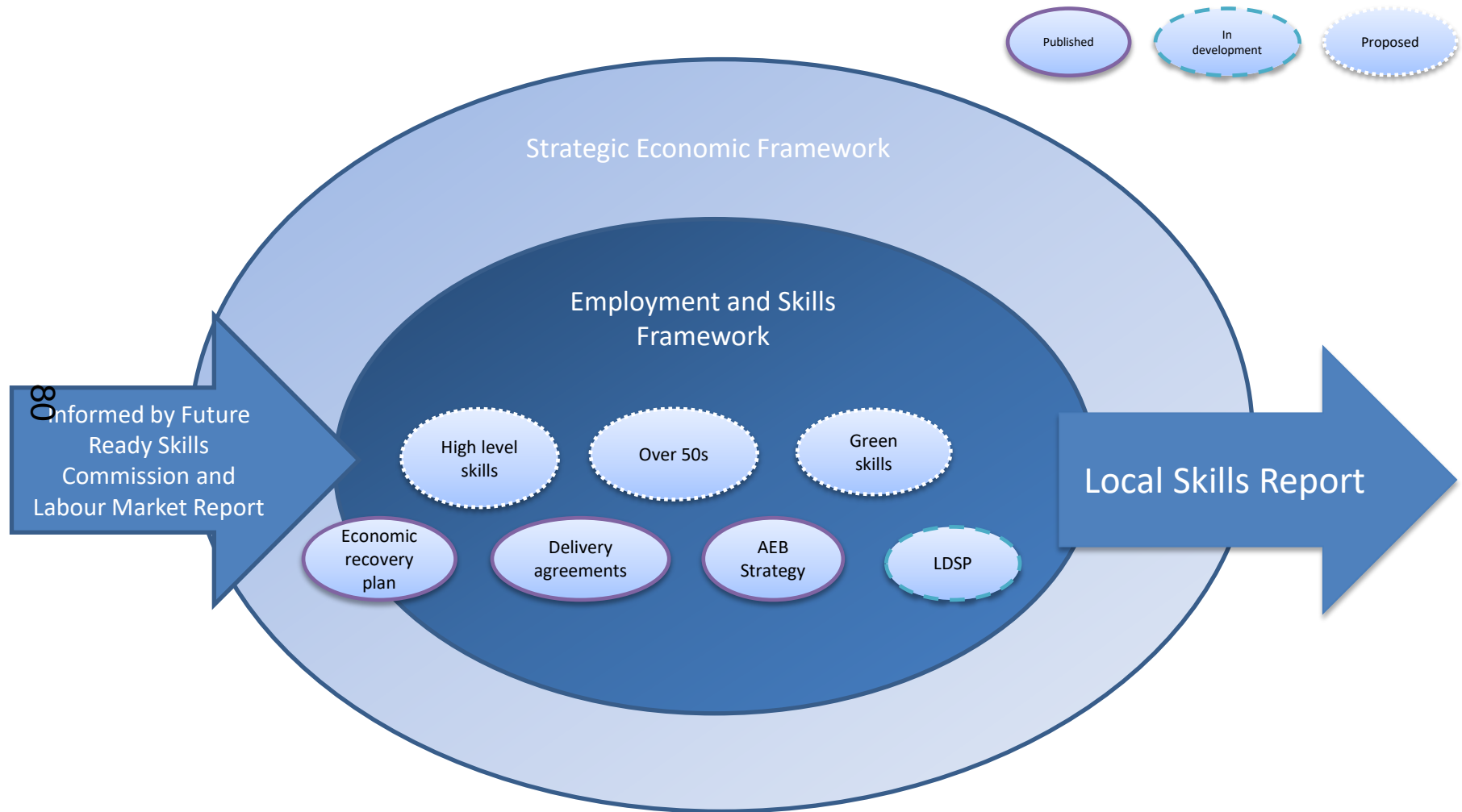
#### **11. Appendices**

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Employment and Skills Framework



## Overview and context

# Policy Context



# Strategic Economic Framework

## Our Vision

To be recognised globally as a place with a strong, successful economy where everyone can build great businesses, careers and lives supported by a superb environment and world-class infrastructure.

## Our Priorities



Boosting productivity



Enabling inclusive growth



Tackling the climate emergency



Delivering 21st century transport



Securing money and powers

## Our Partnerships

## Our Policies and Strategies

Bus	Connectivity	Culture
Digital	Economic and Transport Recovery	Employment and Skills
Energy	Flood Risk Management	Future Mobility
Green and Blue Infrastructure	Housing, Heritage and Regeneration	Innovation
Local Industrial Strategy	Spatial Planning	

## Evidence Base

# Economic recovery plan

## 1. Vision

To grow a more inclusive, resilient, sustainable economy with more productive businesses, better levels of skills and entrepreneurialism, less inequality, better environmental sustainability.

## 2. Goals

### Inclusive Growth

Wellbeing, connectivity and accessibility, relevant and transferable skills and good work

### Sustainable Environment

Capitalise on pro-environmental behaviours, accelerate shovel ready programmes to tackle the climate emergency

## 3. Action Areas

### Rescue 6-12 months

Acting now – supporting communities, saving key industries & getting people into jobs, infrastructure projects ready to go

### Re-imagining 1-2 years

Setting the aspiration for the future – skills & retraining, supporting growth industries, low carbon infrastructure and transition

### Resilience 2-5 years

Delivering future prosperity – skills & career pathways, innovation, stronger communities, greener environment

## Good Jobs & Resilient Business

## Skills & Training

## Accelerated Infrastructure

## 4. West Yorkshire Propositions

### Health tech

Build on city region strengths (industry, R&D + public), delivering investment opportunities, jobs & better health outcomes

### Skills & Digital / made smarter

Cementing existing strengths in digital and manufacturing, addressing digital skills and access gaps, infrastructure pipeline

### Entrepreneurship

Unlocking entrepreneurs from diverse communities, building on MIT REAP, reuse of empty spaces, innovative start-up, training

### Transition to Net Zero

Tackling climate emergency, build on clean growth strengths, infrastructure opportunities, jobs and skills for the future

# Employment and Skills Plan (2016-2020)

83



# Future-Ready Skills Commission

## Ten things that need to change:

84



- 1** Careers information needs to be relevant to the local labour market and empower individuals to make informed decisions



- 2** Employment and skills should be integrated within local housing, transport and environment strategies



- 3** The local approach to skills, employment and health needs to be joined up to support progression to work



- 4** The skills offer for businesses needs to be simplified through coordination at the level of functional economic areas



- 5** Investment in technical education and skills should be increased to sustainable levels



- 6** Greater collaboration is needed in order to spread good workplace practices to improve business performance and productivity



- 7** The learning offer should be simplified and made more affordable, with the right level of finance that removes barriers to access and supports progression in learning



- 8** Employers need to be motivated to train and re-train staff and support progression at all levels, including those in lower paid work to gain higher level skills



- 9** Local areas should have strengthened responsibilities for planning the provision of technical education and training so that it is responsive to local economic priorities



- 10** Employers need greater influence over the design and delivery of technical training to ensure it is responsive to local economic priorities

# Future-Ready Skills Commission

## Nine key recommendations:



Ensure the **funding system offers fair access** regardless of age, level of attainment, background and learning route alongside reversing the long-term decline in adult training



Empower areas to design services around the individual to **address complex and interrelated health, employment and skills** issues



Everyone should have right to **quality information about jobs and careers**, no matter what their stage in life



**Employers should take greater ownership of their talent management and skills development**, aided by a joined-up approach to business support that means they can find the help they need, regardless of the route they take to find it



In order that people can gain the right skills needed for good quality work in their area, **all adult skills and careers funding needs to be devolved**



Recognise that areas are best placed to understand their own skills requirements and **implement statutory five-year strategic skills** plans to make it happen



Ensure that training meets the current and future skills needs of regional labour markets, **delivery agreements with skills providers** should be put in place, supported by investment funding



Large-scale **public infrastructure** projects designed to level up areas should include an additional skills premium of up to 5% of the total budget to maximise their economic potential



**The Apprenticeship system needs national review** to make it work more effectively, and this should include recognising and resourcing areas as the key route to employers and individuals



# Adult Education Budget (AEB) Strategy

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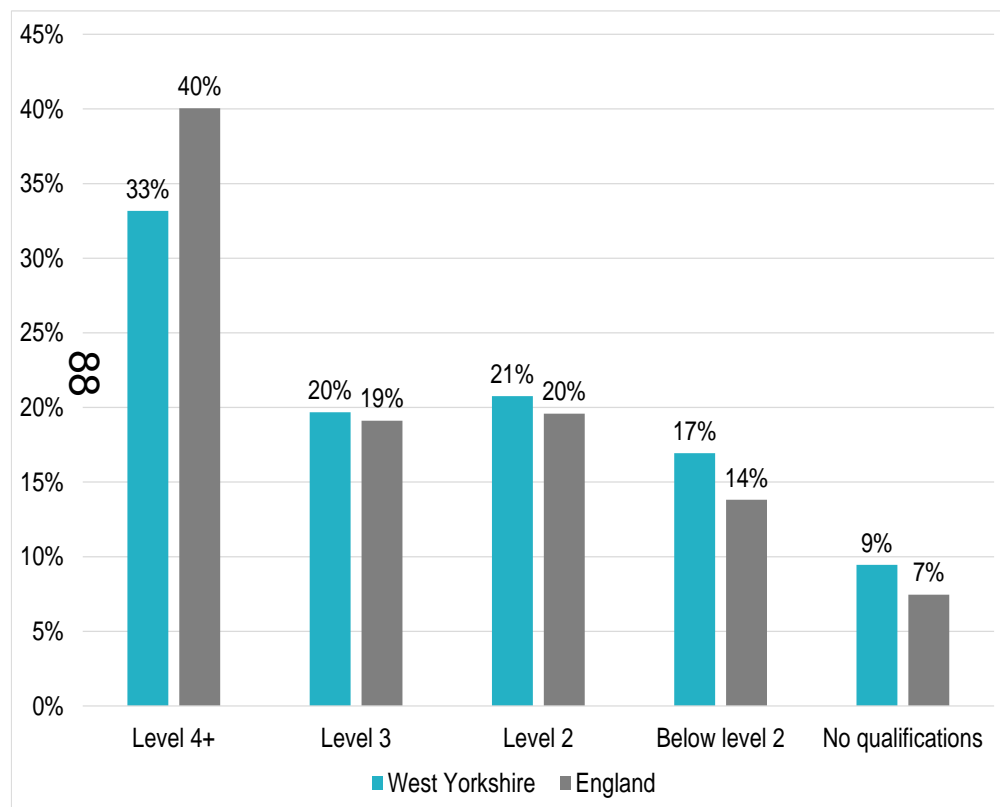
- Devolution of AEB requires a strategy, which has been submitted to DfE and is in consultation, in order to achieve a devolved AEB budget for 2021/22
- £63m annually to target the following priorities:
  - Support the unemployed to gain and sustain employment
  - Unlock progression opportunities and career adaptability through skills, particularly for those on low wages and with insecure work
  - Making 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
- Direct management of the training providers in West Yorkshire to influence and align spending on skills to the opportunities and needs in the local economy. LAs have both a strategic and delivery role within this system.



## Review of Priorities

# West Yorkshire has a weak qualification profile

**Figure: Profile of highest qualification held by working age (16-64) population**

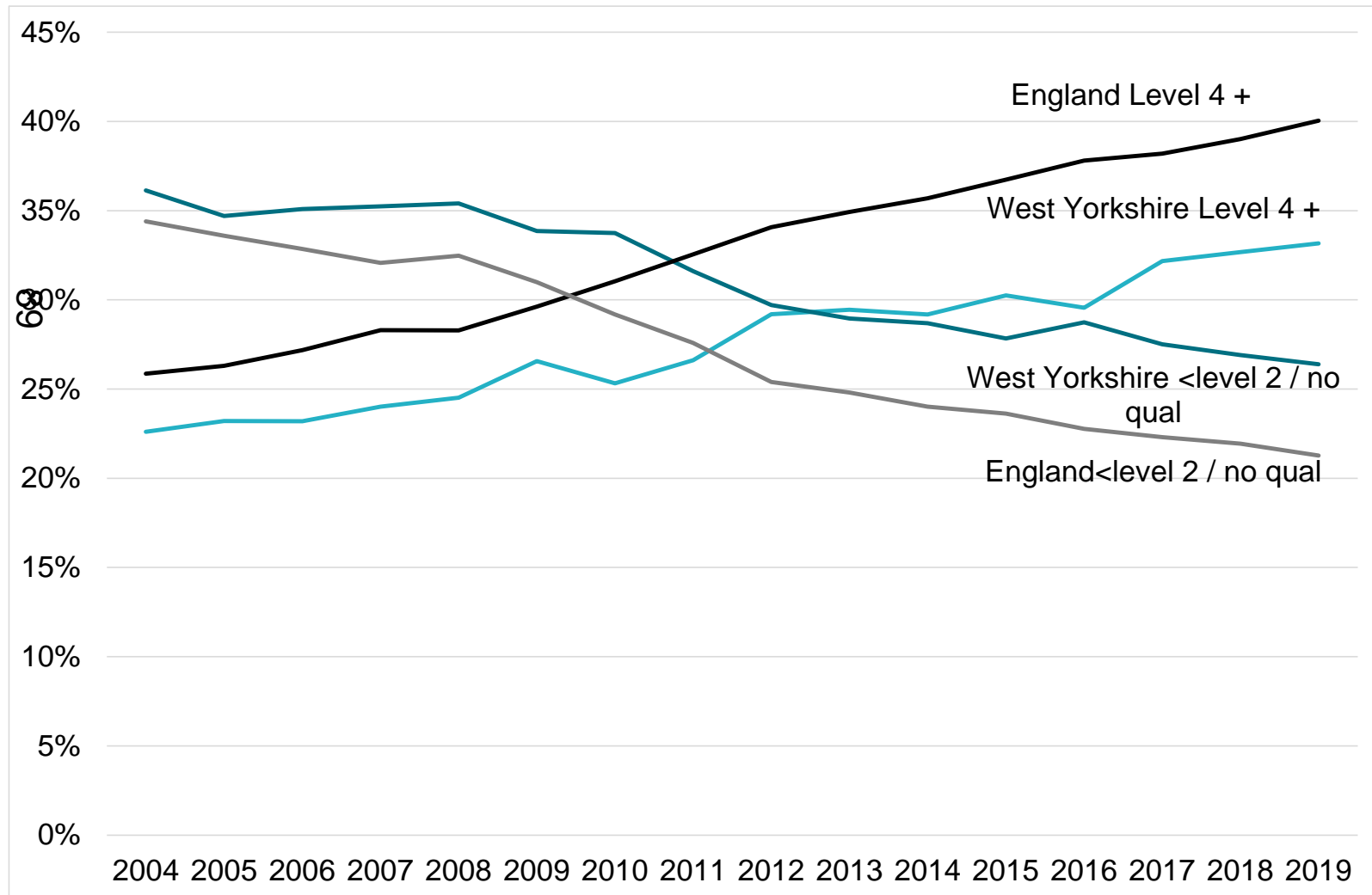


West Yorkshire is seven points below the national average with regard to the proportion of its working age population qualified to a higher level – Level 4 and above. Instead, its qualification profile is skewed towards people with no qualifications or who are qualified at the lowest level (below Level 2).

West Yorkshire is relatively strong in terms of the proportion of people who hold their highest qualification at an intermediate level i.e. at level 3 and level 2.

# There is no sign that the gap is narrowing on qualification performance

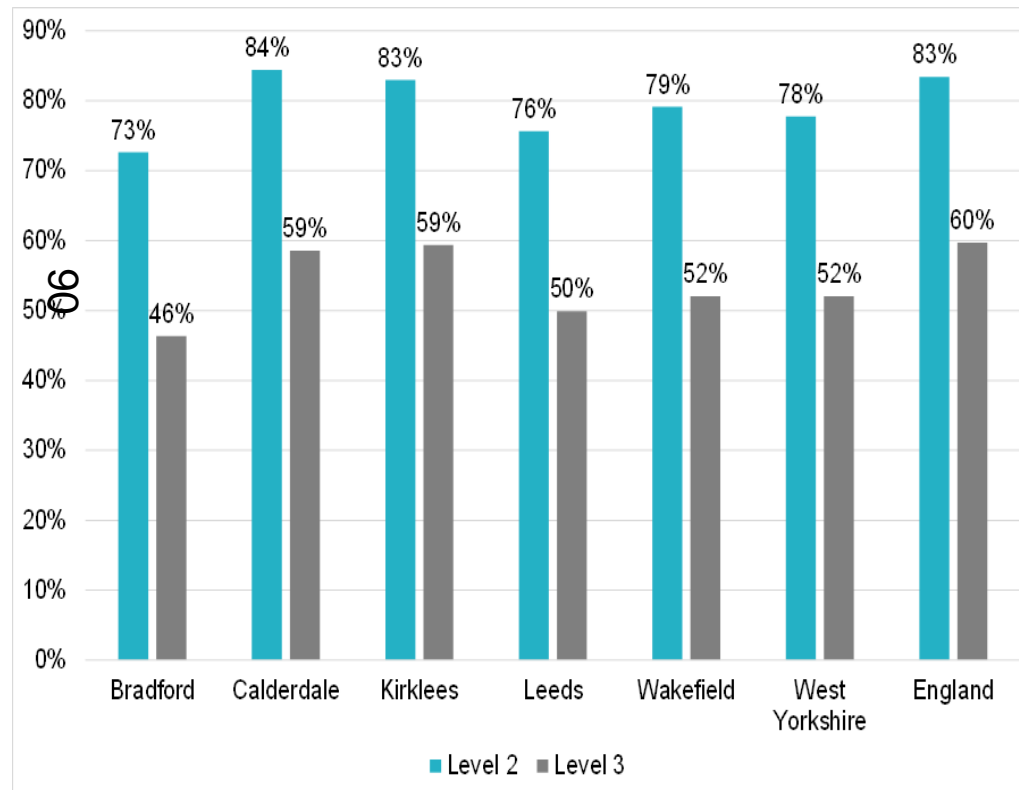
Figure: Trend in in proportion of working age population qualified at Level 4+ versus proportion with no qualifications / qualified below Level 2



Source: Annual Population Survey, Jan – Dec 2019

# Attainment of young people contributes to West Yorkshire's qualification deficit

**Figure: Proportion of young people achieving qualifications at level 2 and level 3 equivalent by age 19 in 2019**

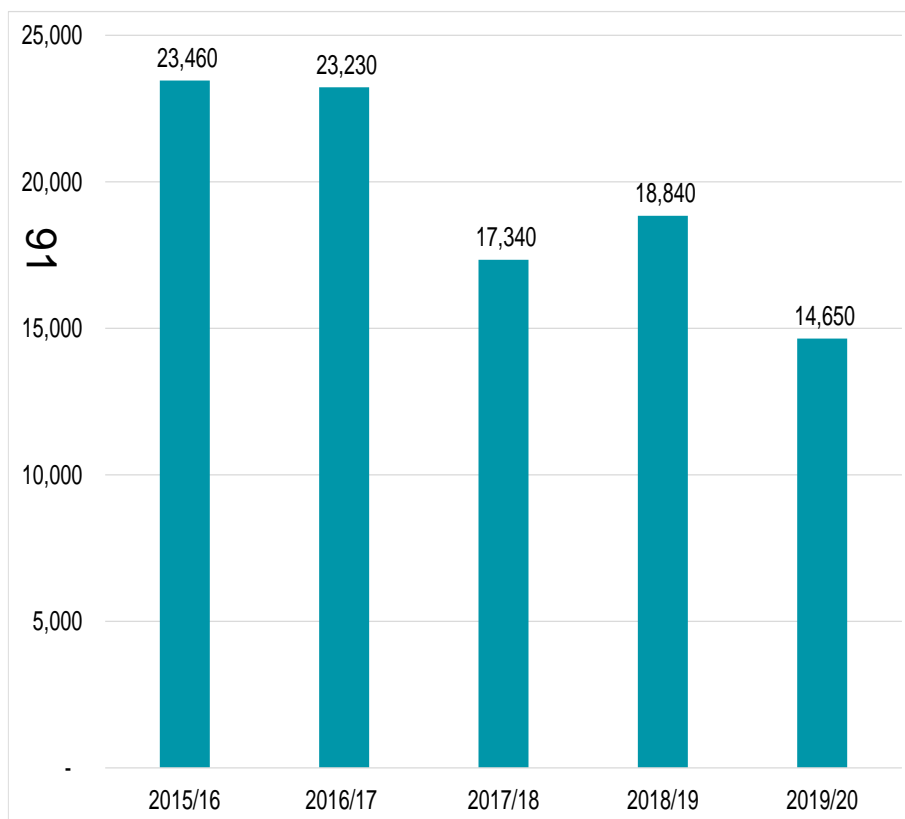


Young people in West Yorkshire are less likely to have achieved a level 2 qualification by the age of 19 than their national counterparts. The proportion is 78%, 5 points lower than the England average.

This underperformance at level 2 feeds through into a wider gap at level 3. Only 52% of young people have achieved level 3 by the age of 19, 8 points below the national average of 60%.

# Apprenticeship starts fell by 22% in 2019/20, and are 38% lower than in 2015/16

**Figure: Trend in apprenticeship starts by age, West Yorkshire**



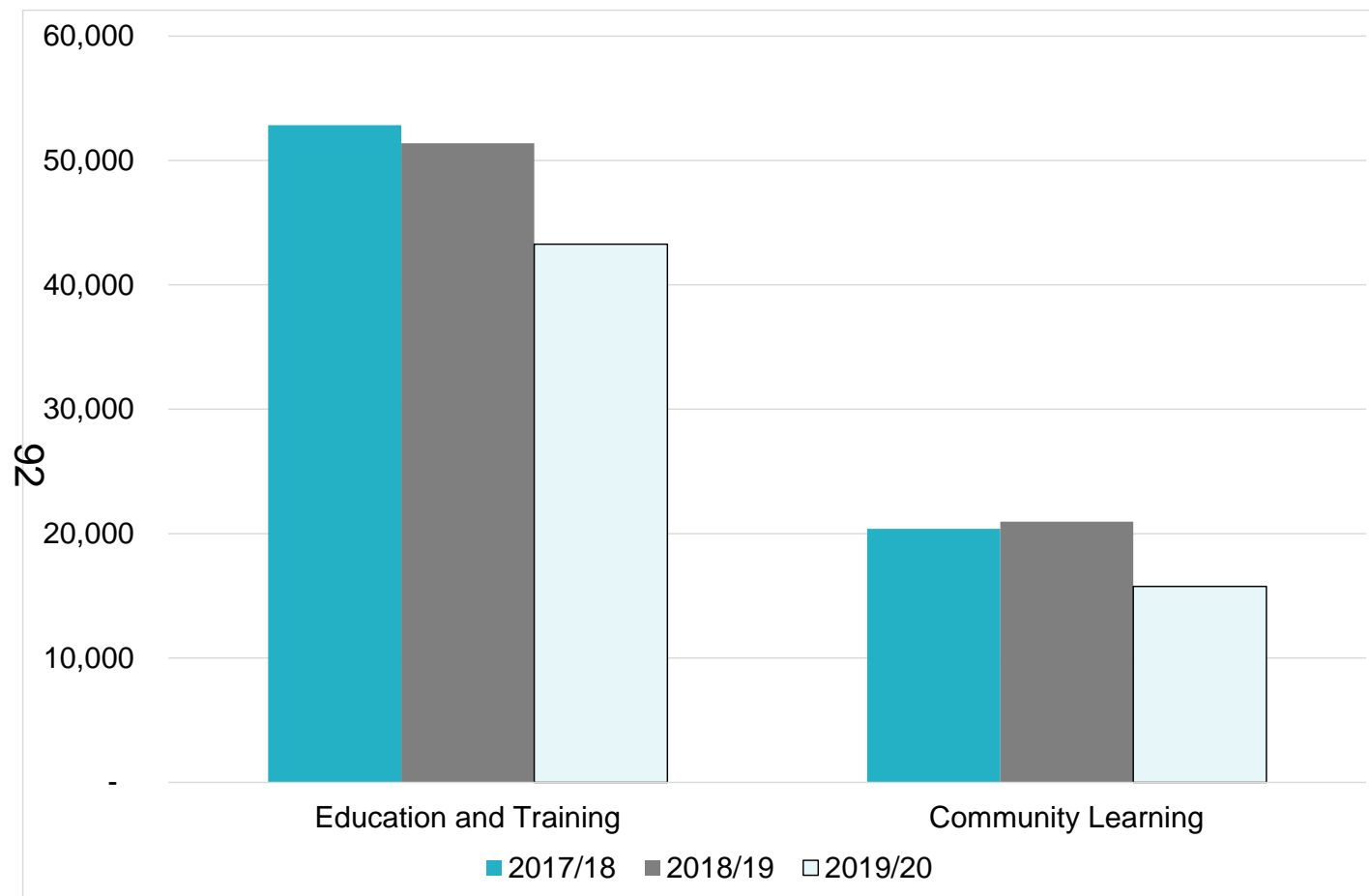
Apprenticeships are a **key means** for employers to grow their own skills and to address their specific needs, particularly in areas of shortage.

In the most recent year, the decline was most pronounced for individuals aged 19-24s - 27% down (-140).

The numbers of starts for under-19s was down by 20% and adults down by 18%.

# Participation in adult education fell by around a fifth overall in 2019/20 as a result of Covid-19

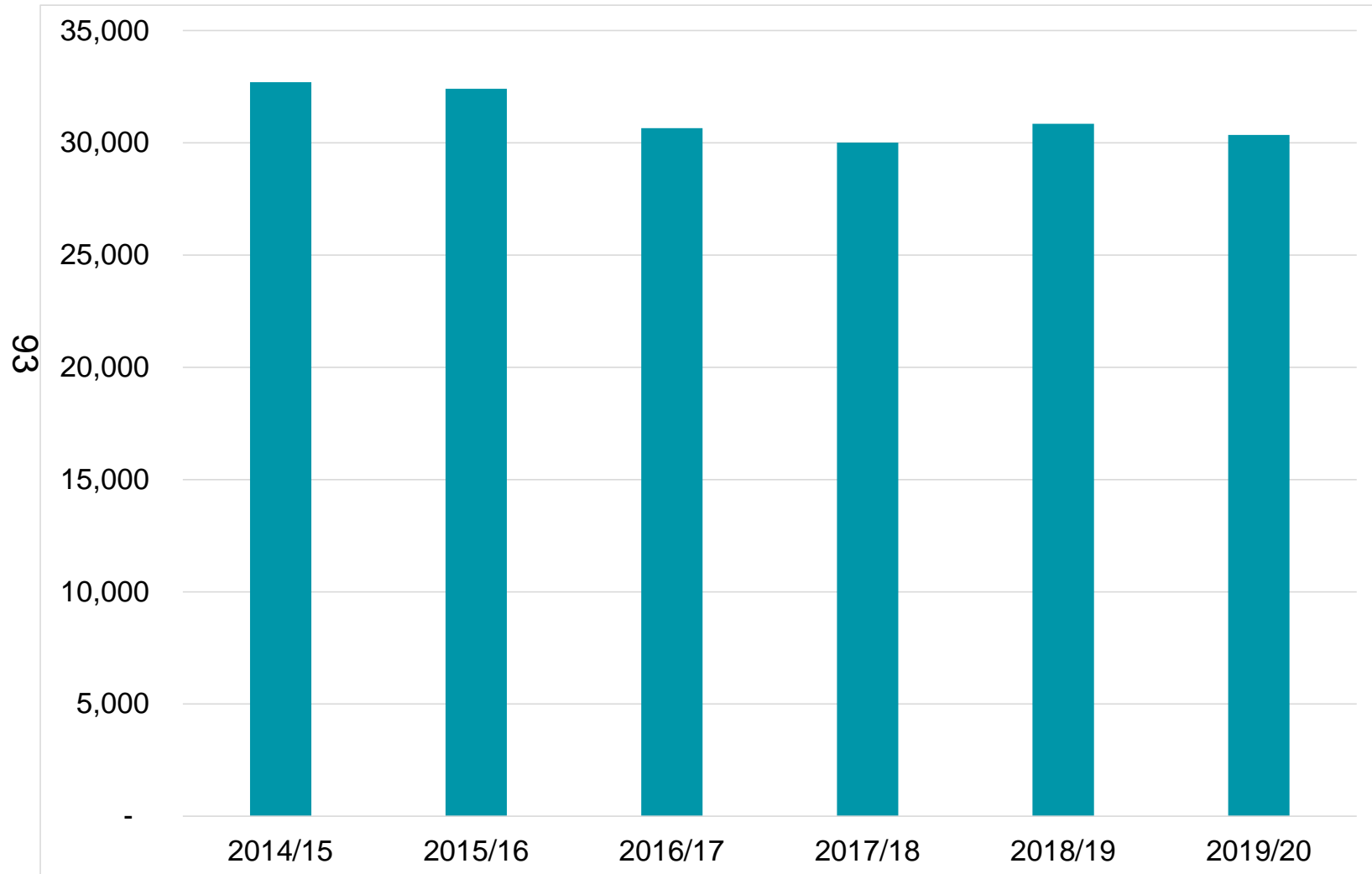
**Figure: Participation on FE and Skills programmes (learners aged 19+), West Yorkshire**



Source: Education and Skills Funding Agency

# Number of entrants into Higher Education has remained stable in recent years

**Figure: Trend in number of entrants to West Yorkshire HEIs**

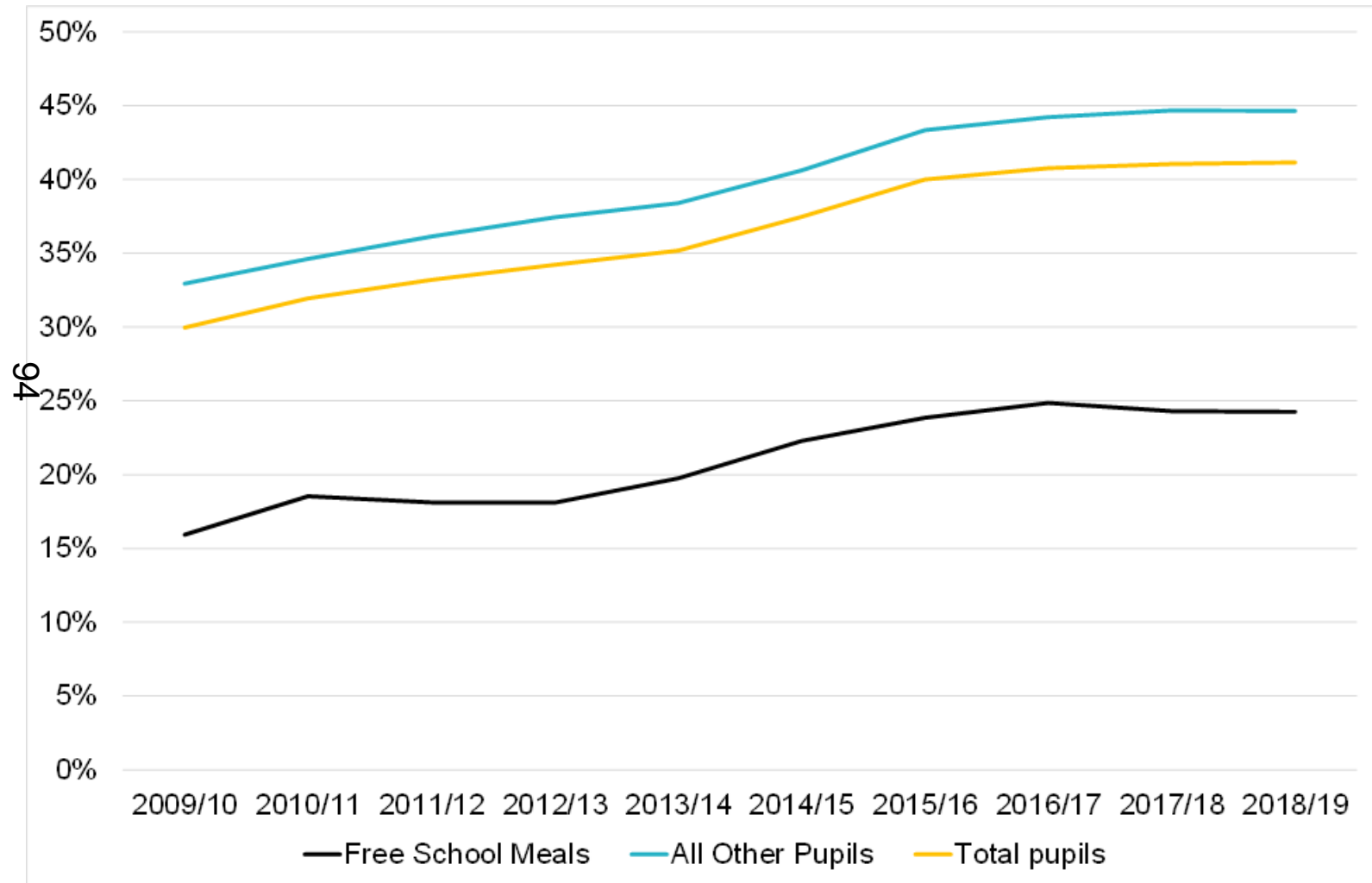


*Note: UK domiciled entrants into WY institutions*

*Source: HESA*

# HE entry rates have plateaued

**Figure: Trend in proportion of pupils entering higher education by free school meal status, West Yorkshire**

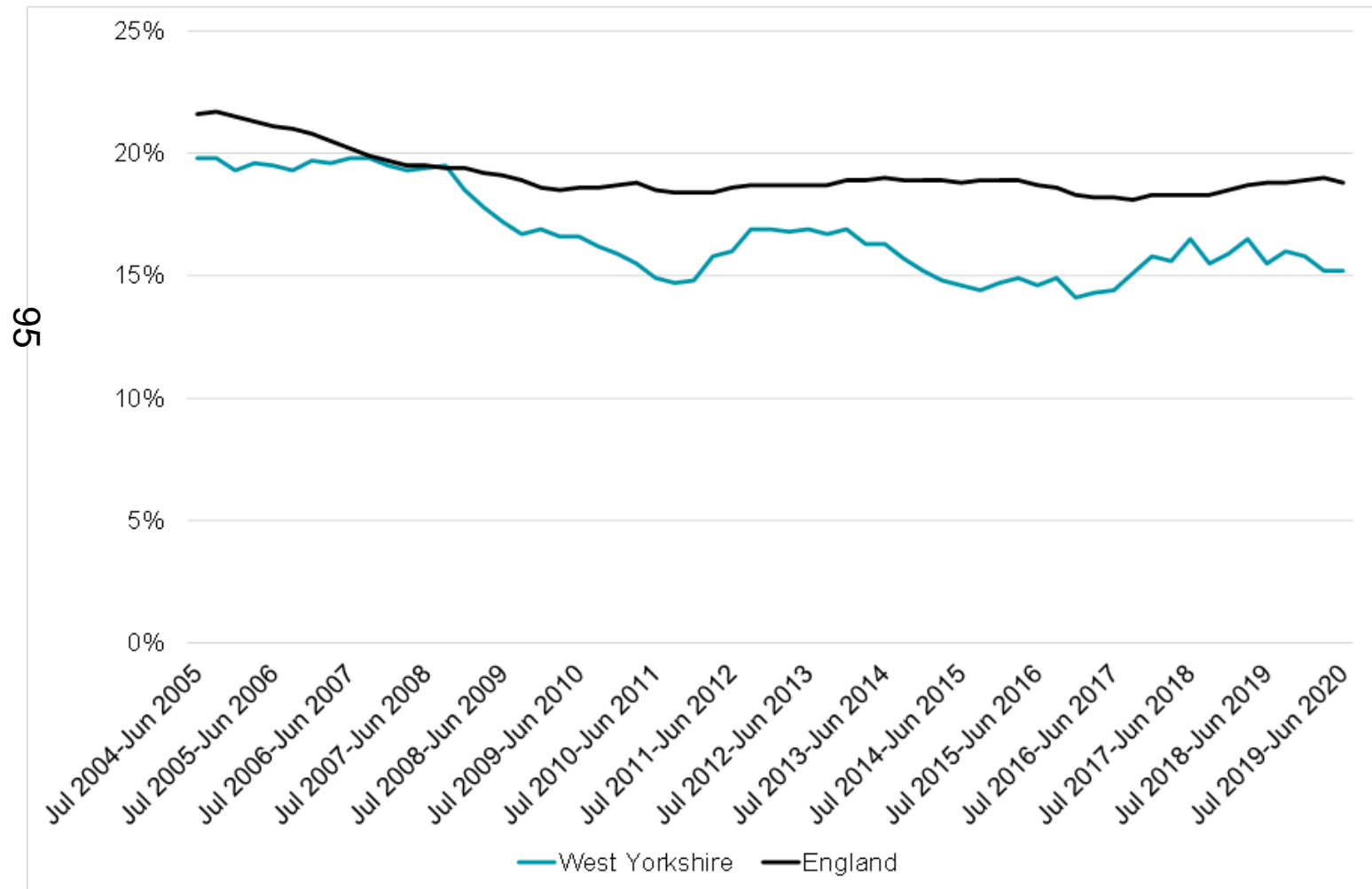


Source: Department for Education



# Job-related training has stagnated

Figure: Proportion of people receiving job-related training in previous 13 weeks



Source: Annual Population Survey

# Where are we now?

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## Labour market challenges

- Around two-thirds of employers expect future upskilling needs. Many report they are unable to find the skills they need, yet the majority of employers under-invest in skills. Yet only 9% of employers demonstrate high performing workplace practices.
- Around two-fifths of employers would like to invest more in training – but face barriers in terms of cost and time.
- Minority of local businesses have a skills plan:
  - Only 36% have training plan and 29% a training budget and few have a structured approach to managing their talent.
- A significant proportion of workers lack the full proficiency to do their jobs. Among the skills that need improving are management skills, basic digital skills and “soft” / interpersonal skills.
  - 22% of adults do not have essential digital skills for life, with only 42% having essential digital skills for the workplace.

# Where are we now?

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## Labour market challenges related to COVID-19

- Uncertainty about future growth patterns in the economy and sectors / occupations that will offer the greatest opportunity for reskilling etc. Some areas like health and digital have been resilient to the crisis in terms of job openings but others like clerical and hospitality have seen a reduction in demand.
- Negative impacts on town and city centres, hampering their key role in job creation.
- 26 • Further rises in unemployment as furlough ends, with the risk of people feeding through to long-term unemployed.
- Likely to exacerbate existing disadvantage, impacting most severely on prospects for low-paid, young people, workers on atypical contracts etc. Risk that those already struggling to access the labour market will face increased competition for jobs.
- Increase in young people staying on at school and further education but overall sharp reduction in apprenticeship take-up and enrolments on adult education programmes. Could limit opportunities for individuals into medium term and constrain supply of skills required by economy.

# Where are we now?

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## Labour market strengths

- Higher skilled jobs have been the main driver of recent employment growth and this is expected to continue into future.
- Prior to the COVID crisis, employment growth had been broad-based across sectors, with manufacturing and services sharing in the growth
- Role of Leeds city as an economic hub and as one of the most vibrant labour markets in the north.
- <sup>60</sup> Good availability of intermediate level skills (levels 2 and 3) which are a key requirement for some inward investors
- Diverse local economy with key strengths in sectors like manufacturing and finance. Strong growth in previously under-developed areas like culture, media and sport.
- Digital employment is growing rapidly and presents a key opportunity to boost the performance of the local economy and provide opportunities for individuals.
- Future infrastructure investment, including HS2 and mass transit, could create jobs directly, as well as connecting local people to jobs.

# Where are we now?

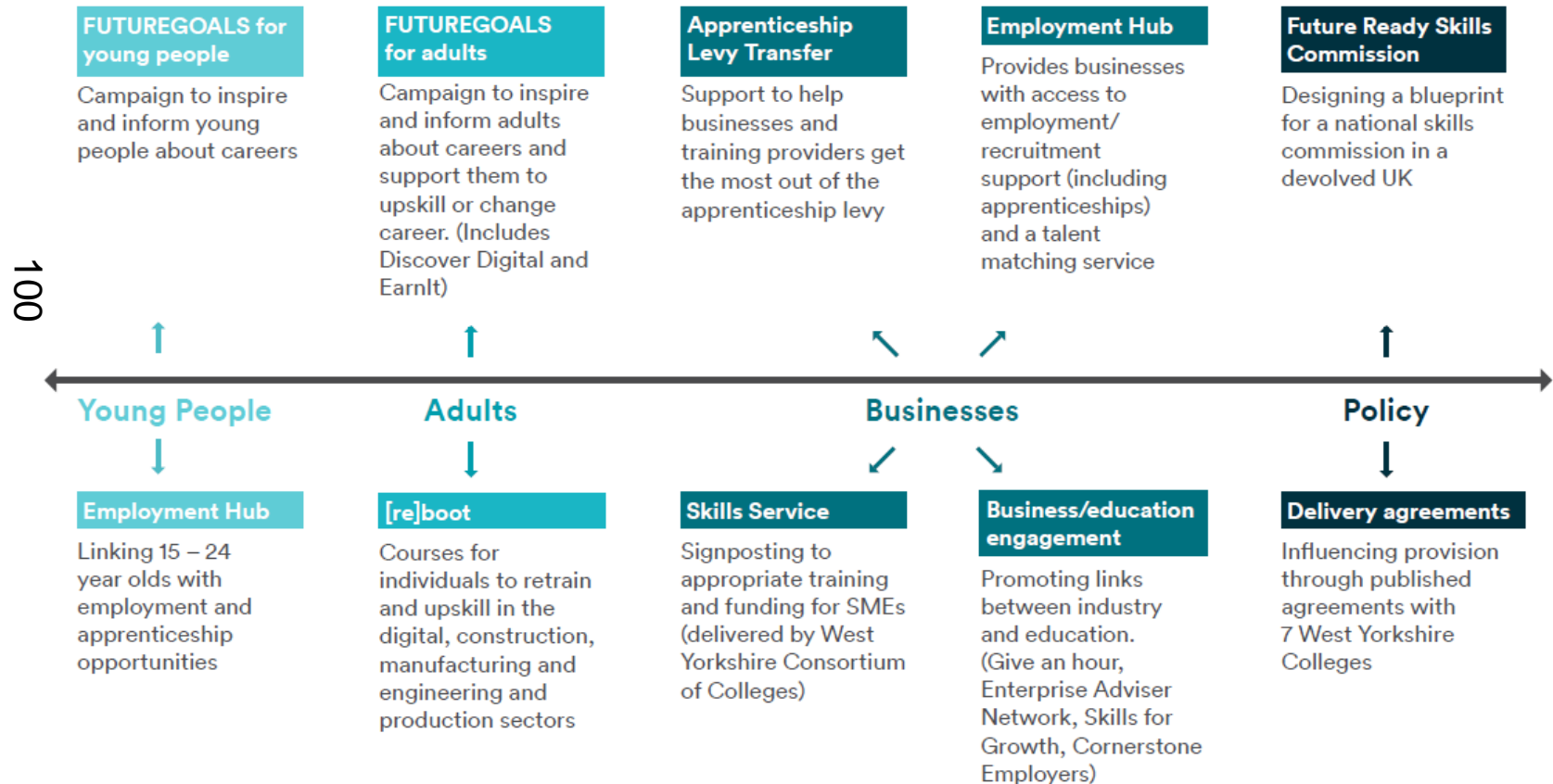
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## Partnership strengths

- West Yorkshire has a high performing further education sector offering diverse range of provision, strong community engagement and good level of quality.
- Large and diverse HE sector attracting significant net inflow of students each year.
- Joint venture with West Yorkshire Colleges Consortium working with the LEP to address region's skills priorities
- <sup>6</sup><sub>6</sub> Investment through skills capital funding into 10 major infrastructure projects to world class training facilities to deliver skills needed in the region including:
  - Process manufacturing centre, Kirklees
  - Quarry Hill, healthcare and life sciences, Leeds
  - Advance Skills and Innovation Centre, Wakefield
- Strong strategic relationships with employers
- Established Skills Advisory Panel / Employment and Skills Panel
- Future-ready Skills Commission

# Where are we now?

## Delivery strengths



# Progress against strategic priorities

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- The Devolution deal secured progress in key areas:
  - **Adult Education Budget (AEB) Devolution Implementation** and the **AEB Strategy** is a key Employment and Skills Plan within the Strategic Economic Framework .
  - A **Local Digital Skills Partnership** has been established to address digital exclusion, support the digital growth of SMEs and charities, and help educators and students to grow digital skills
- The **Future-Ready Skills Commission** has published its blueprint and final report for the post-16 skills system
- The Combined Authority and West Yorkshire Colleges have **Delivery Agreements** in place that set out delivery and curriculum planning against the region's skills priorities. This will be extended as a minimum to all AEB grant recipients.
- Lifetime Skills Guarantee, **Level 3 entitlement** will be delegated to the Combined Authority and aligned with AEB.

# Progress on delivery

---

## Careers and retraining

- **[re]boot** offers over 18 year olds the chance to upskill, gain new skills/qualifications and enter employment within shortage sectors
- **#futuregoals** is an all-age careers platform and campaign that showcases jobs and careers in a range of sectors, created with employers.

## Employment Offer

- **Employment Hubs** deliver in partnership with Local Authorities to support young people aged 15-24 to access additional learning, apprenticeships and/or employment. They also engage businesses to support their workforce development including talent matching to job and apprenticeship vacancies. This programme has been extended in response to the COVID-19 crisis.
- The **Apprenticeship Levy Support** service helps businesses to either use their levy funds to recruit their own apprentices or transfer their unspent levy to other businesses seeking apprenticeship funding.



# Progress on delivery

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## Education offer

- **Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN)** works with 185 secondary schools and colleges to improve the destinations of young people. 70% of schools and colleges report that pupils are more career ready and have better employability skills, as a result of being part of the Enterprise Adviser Network
- **Careers Hubs** deliver enhanced and targeted activity in Bradford and Kirklees as well <sup>10</sup>with institutions with high numbers of pupils with SEND through Careers Hubs.
- The pilot **Raising Aspiration Fund** has created employer co-designed provision targeted at students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Skills for Growth** programme enables small and medium enterprises to access education providers in a simple one stop approach with localised delivery. In the programme's first quarter, 36 businesses have been engaged and completed an Education Engagement Plan which outlines how they would like to engage with skills provision and education in the region.

## Vision



# Where do we want to be?

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West Yorkshire is the largest labour market in the Northern Powerhouse, with strengths in manufacturing, financial and professional services, and the rapidly developing fields of digital and healthcare technology. Our diversity, rich cultural heritage and geography makes West Yorkshire one of the country's best places to live, study and work.

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## **Vision**

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

# What does success look like?

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We want West Yorkshire to be a place where:

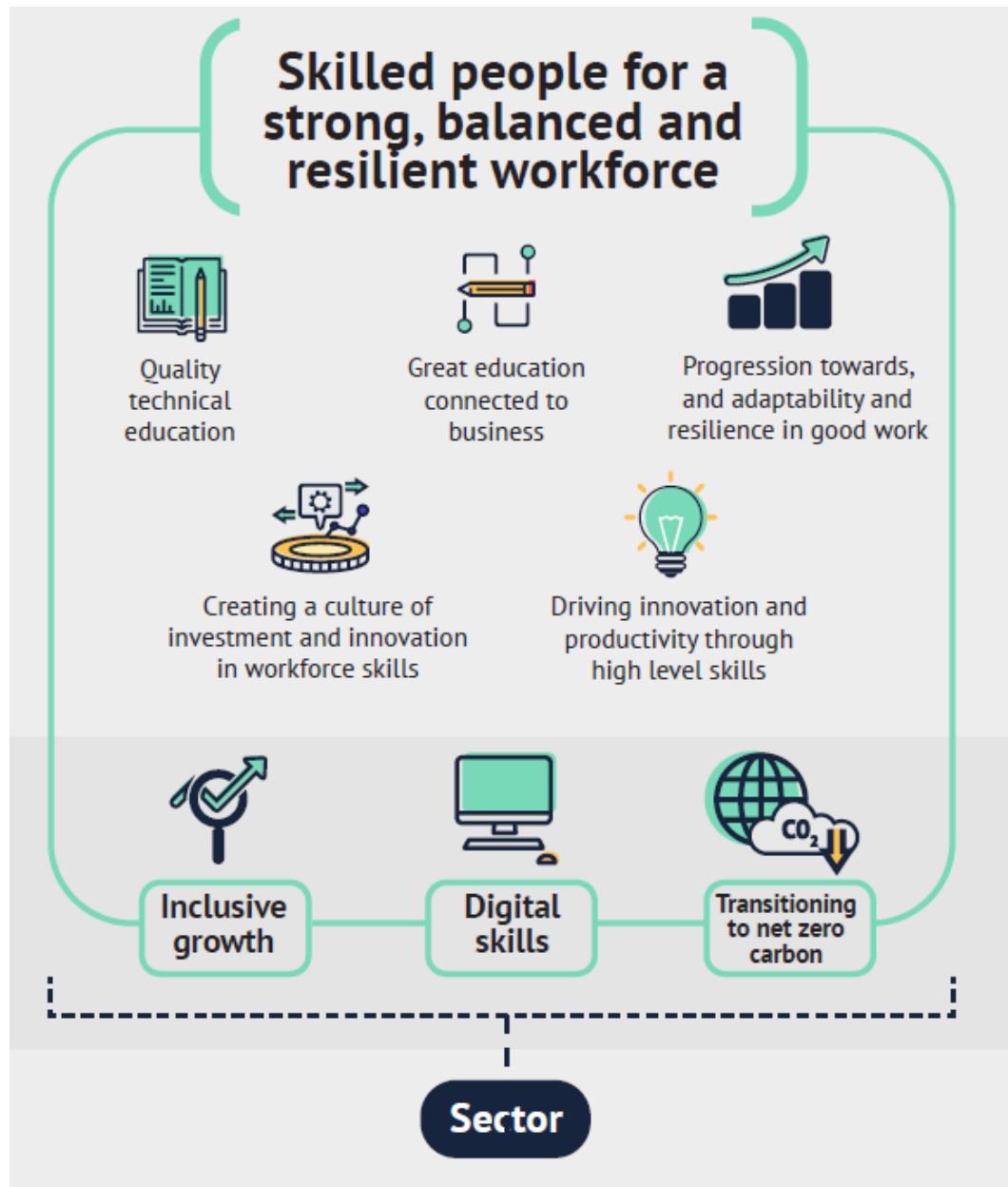
- There are no barriers to people taking up, progressing and succeeding in learning and work, and where they are supported into good employment
- Employers recognise the value of a diverse workforce and invest in their talent to develop the skills that will improve productivity and support progression in the workplace
- Individuals value lifelong learning and are able to make decisions about their development, informed by quality, relevant careers information based on the reality on the ground
- World class teaching and training provides flexible learning opportunities that align to the strategic needs of the local economy.

## The Framework



# The refreshed priorities

Priority	Ambition
<b>QUALITY TECHNICAL EDUCATION</b>	Technical education is a choice with clearly developed pathways that meet the needs of employers
<b>GREAT EDUCATION CONNECTED TO BUSINESS</b>	Learning supports preparation for and progression in work, it is informed by employers. Locally rooted careers information inspires and enables informed choices to support personal ambitions
108 <b>ACCESSING AND PROGRESSING IN GOOD WORK</b>	Everyone has the skills to be able to access good work and is equally supported to take up training in the workplace that enables progression and development of transferable skills.
<b>CREATING A CULTURE OF INVESTMENT IN WORKFORCE SKILLS</b>	Every employer has a skills plan and invests in the workforce at all levels leading to reduction in skills gaps reported and increased productivity at firm level
<b>DRIVING INNOVATION AND PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH HIGH LEVEL SKILLS</b>	To increase the qualification levels, particularly in STEM, of working age adults, foster a culture of enterprise and innovation and widen the talent pool for employers



## Objectives and actions



# Quality technical education

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## Evidence

- Apprenticeships / technical education key to addressing employer skills needs and providing sustainable careers
- Those completing an apprenticeship at level 4 or above earn £150,000 more on average over their lifetime
- <sup>111</sup>Disadvantaged less likely to access apprenticeships
- 10% of pupils go into an apprenticeship after KS5 but only 8% of FSM pupils
- Technical education take-up disrupted by COVID-19
- Apprenticeship starts down by 21% in 2019/20 but down by 50% in final quarter of academic year
- Levy is key source of apprenticeship funding
- 60% of starts in 2019/20 were levy funded and proportion is growing

# Quality technical education

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## Objectives

- Support individuals to take up technical qualifications and access high quality work placements
  - Increase the number of learning opportunities to take up technical education as a route to a rewarding career
- 1/2 Work with employers to maximise apprenticeship levy investment in West Yorkshire

# Great education connected to business

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## Evidence

- Work experience / inspiration opportunities still limited
  - A minority of local employers offer work experience and work inspiration opportunities – 36% and 11% respectively; 18% offer placements to school pupils, 14% to college students.
- ~~Access~~<sub>ω</sub> to workplace constrained by COVID-19
  - Major challenge in connecting students with workplace
- Attainment of young people is low in West Yorkshire
  - 78% of young people in WY achieve level 2 by age of 19 compared with 83% nationally; for level 3, figures are 52% and 60%.
- Deprivation / disadvantage impacts on career outcomes.
  - Disadvantaged pupils less likely to achieve academically and they have poorer career outcomes in terms of entering a sustained positive destination when leaving education

# Great education connected to business

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## Objectives

- Ensure careers information takes account of local labour market information to supported informed decision making and supports lifelong learning
- Enable equal participation in the take up of careers education for people of all ages, backgrounds, and career stage to support personal ambitions
- Embed careers support and career management into key transition points in life
- Increase the number of employers providing experiences of the workplace and work placements

# Accessing and progressing in good work

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## Evidence

- Sharp increase in unemployment as a result of COVID-19
- Claimant unemployment has doubled locally – more than 100,000 claiming jobless benefits in West Yorks with potential for this figure to grow further.
- Many people locked into low-paid work - low skills hamper career prospects
- A fifth of jobs in city region pay less than the Real Living Wage
- Evidence of demand from individuals for re-skilling as a result of COVID-19
- According to You Gov polling, 26% are likely to retrain in another sector in the near future
- Significant national resources are being targeted on reskilling.
- £375m investment in National Skills Fund, including Skills Bootcamps and Lifetime Skills Guarantee

# Accessing and progressing in good work

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## Objectives

- 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
- Support people from all backgrounds to access self-employment opportunities and explore opportunities for new business start-ups
- Coordinate and provide access to training, work placements and job matching for unemployed with SMEs
- Improve West Yorkshire's resilience by identifying and delivering the skills needed for the future

# Creating a culture of investment in workforce skills

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## Evidence

- Employers acknowledge that they under-invest in skills
  - Around two-fifths of employers would like to invest more in training – but face barriers in terms of cost and time.
- Widespread skills gaps among managers
  - A fifth of employers with skills gaps say management staff are affected.
- Minority of local businesses have a skills plan
  - Only 36% have training plan and 29% a training budget
- Digital skills gaps a key issue for business
  - Around a third of medium-sized businesses say they need to improve basic digital skills to meet business objectives.
- Access to training is unequal.
  - Workers who are already qualified to a high level (level 4+) are almost twice as likely to receive training than their less qualified colleagues.

# Creating a culture of investment in workforce skills

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## Objectives

- Focus investment in and development of technical training facilities to ensure future needs of employers, individuals and the wider economy are met
- Increase leadership and management skills for improved skills utilisation in the workplace
- $\frac{1}{\infty}$  Encourage employers to invest and have a workforce skills plan in place to drive productivity and innovation for staff at all levels
- Develop innovation and enterprise skills in the workplace to boost productivity and economic growth
- Increase digital enterprise by helping small businesses and charities upskill their employees and increase their digital capabilities so they can take advantage of the productivity gains that technology provides
- Increase the number of people in work with basic skills, including digital



# Driving innovation and productivity through high level skills

---

## Evidence

- Weak local performance on innovation and productivity
  - Output per hour worked only 85% of national average, R&D spend in Yorkshire and Humber lowest in country
- <sup>19</sup>Local deficit of higher-level skills / qualifications
  - 33% of labour force of West Yorks are qualified to level 4+ compared with national average of 40% - this equates to 100,000 people in real terms.
- Disadvantaged less likely to access higher level skills
  - 41% of all pupils go into HE in West Yorks but for FSM pupils it's only 24%.
- Deficit of higher-level jobs – especially STEM
  - 47% of people in employment in WY in higher skilled roles compared with 50% nationally

# Driving innovation and productivity through high level skills

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## Objectives

- Attract talent to key areas of economic growth for WY, including health tech and transition to net zero economy and digital
- Increase take up of STEM subjects at all levels to meet future demand, particularly on the clean growth agenda
- <sup>120</sup> Remove barriers and ensure equality of access so that learners progress towards higher levels learning
- Maximise collaboration with HEIs, FECs, training providers and employers to establish training needs and provision that supports higher level skills in areas of strength for WY and the North that supports job creation and safeguarding
- Continue to make the case to government for a regionally accountable and driven post-16 skills system

# Sectoral engagement around defined issues

Broad sector	Illustrative examples of priority issues
Energy and utilities	Apprenticeships Higher level technical skills
Engineering and manufacturing	Apprenticeships Learning facilities Higher level technical skills
Construction	Apprenticeships Learning facilities Higher level technical skills Recruitment
Retail	Upskilling / reskilling Digital
Hospitality	Upskilling / reskilling
Professional / financial services	Digital (incl. bootcamps)
Financial services	Attracting / retaining talent Digital (incl. bootcamps)
Transport and logistics	Recruitment Digital
Health	Workforce planning Higher level technical skills (e.g. degree apprenticeships)
Care	Recruitment Higher / degree apprenticeships
Arts and entertainment	Upskilling / reskilling

# Strategic Economic Framework Indicators

Indicator title	Description
% qualified at level 4 and above	% of population aged 16-64 with highest qualification at Level 4 and above
% qualified below level 2	% of population aged 16-64 with highest qualification below level 2 or no formal qualifications
Unemployment rate	Proportion of labour force who are unemployed and actively seeking and available for work
% of employees in quality work	% of employees who have good hours, a desired contract type, and are not in low pay
Apprenticeship starts	Number of people starting an apprenticeship each academic year
Jobs paying below Real Living Wage	% of local jobs that pay below the Living Wage Foundation's Real Living Wage threshold
Employment rate gap for disadvantaged groups	Proportion of people in employment in disadvantaged groups (disabled, BAME, aged over-50) versus overall employment rate
NEETs	Percentage of 16-17 year olds NEET or activity not known

# Economic Recovery Plan Indicators

	Economic indicators	Social indicators	Environmental indicators
<b>Skills</b>			
Relevant & transferable skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment and pay gap for disadvantaged groups</li> <li>• Working age without qualifications</li> <li>• Skills shortages and gaps</li> <li>• Economic activity rate</li> <li>• Claimant unemployment count for deprived neighbourhoods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to skills development for disadvantaged groups</li> <li>• Social mobility (attainment at KS4 by FSM eligibility and access to HE by social status)</li> <li>• Employers engaging with schools</li> <li>• Levels of digital exclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to net zero skills development for disadvantaged groups: apprenticeships, HE</li> <li>• Jobs in the clean growth sector</li> <li>• Attendance at green skills training</li> </ul>
Prevention of NEETs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of NEETs / post-education destinations</li> <li>• 16-24 / 50+ unemployment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEETs in disadvantaged groups</li> <li>• 16-24 / 50+ unemployed in disadvantaged groups</li> </ul>	
Equal access to learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in employment and skills programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in disadvantaged groups</li> </ul>	
Strengthened skills offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacancies (online job postings) – level and occupational profile</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme participation in demand / growth sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % with access to net zero / clean growth sector opportunities</li> </ul>
Skills utilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevalence of "flexible" employment modes</li> <li>• % qualified at L4+ or degree level employed in non-graduate roles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variation across disadvantaged groups</li> </ul>	



# Digital skills

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## Why is this important for West Yorkshire?

West Yorkshire has a fast-growing digital sector which makes the development of digital skills for the population a key focus area to ensure we can support this growth and provide future employment opportunities into this sector. Digital skills also form a key part of modern-day life for everyone across West Yorkshire, where we are looking to create a fully inclusive society and provide opportunities for all. Yet over 25% of the population do not have basic digital skills for life, therefore are being excluded and will struggle to gain employment. Providing opportunities for all to develop their digital skills will enhance their inclusivity and their employability and support growth across the region's economy and enhance business productivity and allow West Yorkshire to thrive as a region.

## Who is this important for?

Important for **all**, but in particular for those from disadvantaged backgrounds such as low income, low education households, those with disabilities, those from BAME heritage those from older age group and those with English as a second language. Digital skill will also support those who are under or unemployed or are furloughed or at risk of redundancy and enhance everyone's chances of future employment. It will also provide support to the thriving digital sector and those growth businesses adopting digital skills by providing a skilled workforce to support future growth.

# Digital skills

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## What are we already doing?

We have recently launched the Local Digital Skills Partnership to work with key partners both regionally and nationally across all sectors to support the growth of digital skills and coordinate provision in the region. Programs such as future goals and re-boot are already in place to support sections of those in need, and 100% digital Leeds is also enabling digital skills provision. In addition, AEB and the coming digital entitlement will support provision to those in need. There are also business support programs being provided to those businesses most in need to evolve their digital skills and support their sustainability and growth through the pandemic.

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## What more could we do?

Provision is often disjointed, not easy to navigate, nor uses routes that all can engage through, so we must look at broadening provision of skills provision from L1 through to L5 and beyond and ensure that it is available to all, utilising diverse routes to deliver and therefore providing opportunities for all to grow their skills, to become more included in mainstream society and move towards employment. We can also look to understand the needs of employers more and work closely to provide reskilling and upskilling programs to those at risk of redundancy to support future growth, but also to build engagement with education to ensure work ready students are being provided to match business needs.



# Green workforce

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## Why is this important for West Yorkshire?

Skilled workers are required to deliver against immediate and longer-term challenges, in order to support the Combined Authority's ambition for a net zero carbon economy. The Government's Green Jobs Taskforce has committed to creating 2 million green jobs nationally by 2050, suggesting that approximately 100,000 will be required in West Yorkshire in the same timeframe.

An alternative analysis by Ecuity for the Local Government Association suggests the creation of approximately 71,000 new clean growth jobs in West Yorkshire – potentially more than any other area in England. The study estimates that 40,000 of these will be required by 2030, with the largest need in the alternative fuels industry sector (17,291 jobs).

The recent Scaling Up Better Homes Yorkshire report suggests that, in domestic retrofits alone, 30,000 jobs will be required in West Yorkshire by 2028, with 5,000 by 2024. The same report provides the evidence on construction trades and roles needed to deliver retrofits, yet it remains unclear where the pipeline of skilled workers will come from.

# Green workforce

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## Who is this important for?

All, but particularly:

- individuals at risk of unemployment as a result of decarbonisation, or looking to re-train
- business owners requiring support to upskill and re-train staff as part of the transition
- young people to ensure a strong and diverse future talent pipeline
- employers and training providers in strengthening their collaboration and engagement to improve and expand training programmes.

## What are we already doing?

The Employment and Skills Panel have convened interested parties in a roundtable forum of employers and skills providers to share intelligence and review the actions required in West Yorkshire

# Green workforce

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## What more could we do?

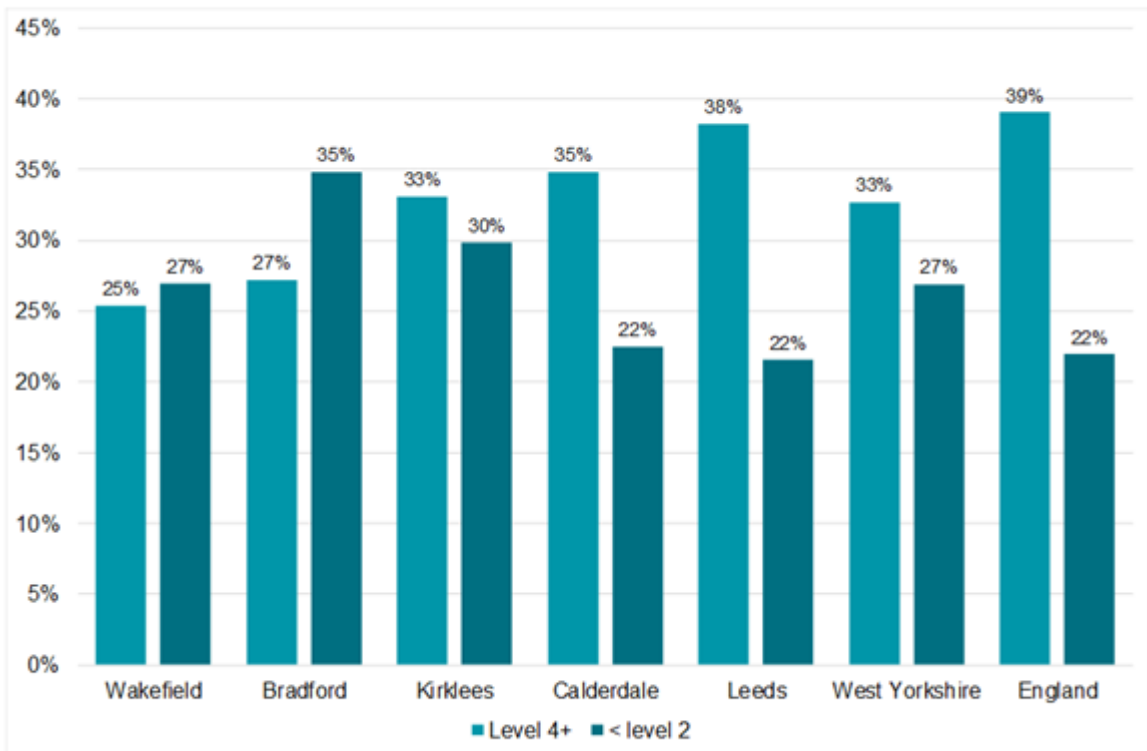
- Establish peer networks to enable the sharing of best practice within sectors and/or areas
- Coordinate a programme of careers and inspiration activities with employers to raise awareness of the importance of STEM skills and to address the future demand for green jobs. A lack of diversity is recognised, as shown in the National Grid's Building the Net Zero Energy Workforce report; to offset the gender stereotypes embedded by the age of 7 this activity would be for Early Years, primary and secondary-aged students and their parents, carers, and teachers.
- Strengthen collaboration and engagement between employers and training providers to improve and expand their training programmes.
- Undertake skills audits with SMEs and training providers to establish need and opportunity for behaviour change
- Explore opportunities for supply chains that are not necessarily in the 'green market' to share their green credentials.
- Bursaries or incentivised training for individuals to undertake retraining opportunities
- Establish an internship programme, connecting skilled interns / students with organisations development low-carbon technologies

# Inclusive growth

## Why is this important for West Yorkshire?

The City Region is below average in both basic and higher-level skills, and a quarter of jobs across the City Region pay less than the Real Living Wage. Under-investment in training and development over the years has affected living standards and makes it hard for many people to find a route to higher-quality work.

**Figure: Profile of highest qualification held by working age (16-64) population in 2018**



Source: Annual Population Survey, Jan to Dec 2018

# Inclusive growth

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## Who is this important for?

All, including:

- The 950,000 people live in areas considered to be the most deprived in the UK
- Individuals working in 24% of local jobs which pay less than the Living Wage Foundation's Living Wage rate
- Black, Asian and minority ethnicities, for whom the employment rate lags behind the national average
- People without essential digital skills
- Individuals aged 16-64 whose highest qualification is below level 2, or who have no formal qualifications

# Inclusive growth

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## What are we already doing?

- Continued delivery of **[re]boot** to support those who are employed, furloughed or facing redundancy to re-train.
- Continued delivery of the **Employment Hub**, providing careers support and a job matching service.
- The **Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN)** works with 185 secondary schools and colleges to improve the destinations of young people
- <sup>3</sup>**Careers Hubs** provide enhanced and targeted activity in Bradford and Kirklees, as well with institutions with high numbers of SEND pupils
- The **Raising Aspirations pilot fund** has created employer co-designed provision targeted at students from disadvantaged backgrounds
- The **Skills for Growth** programme enables small and medium enterprises to access education providers in a simple one-stop approach with localised delivery.

# Inclusive growth

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## What more could we do?

- Support people from all backgrounds to access self-employment opportunities and explore opportunities for new business start-ups
- Coordinate and provide access to training, work placements and job matching for unemployed with SMEs
- Remove barriers and ensure equality of access so that learners progress towards higher levels learning
- <sup>3</sup>Enable equal participation in the take up of careers educations for people of all ages, backgrounds, and career stage to support personal ambitions
- Increase the number of employers providing experiences of the workplace and work placements

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

**Date:** 24 February 2021

**Subject:** **Inclusive Growth**

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**Director:** Alan Reiss, Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications

**Author:** James Flanagan, Head of Public Service Reform

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

1.1 Further to views expressed at the Board meeting in January:

- Provide an update on the Inclusive Growth Framework's Indicator Set; and
- Seek in principle endorsement of a short list of Inclusive Growth interventions, noting that funding decisions rest with the Combined Authority.

## **2. Information**

2.1 The January meeting of the LEP Board endorsed the Inclusive Growth Framework for adoption as part of the wider Strategic Economic Framework.

2.2 It was reported to the Board that the Framework had been developed to address the region's socio-economic inequalities by promoting well-being, the acquisition of relevant and transferable skills, inclusive digital and transport connectivity, and good work for everyone, within an overall ambition of delivering an inclusive economic recovery.

2.3 Members discussed various issues and opportunities in relation to delivering the Framework, including:

- The need for Inclusive Growth to be fully embedded into the region's assurance framework to ensure all funded interventions drive inclusive outcomes, and thereby improved equality.
- Recognition of the important partnership role of the third sector, working with the public and private sectors, in ensuring an inclusive economic recovery.
- Support for the working indicator set, with proposals to include healthy years of life as a key measure of progress, consider an "early years"

wellbeing measure, and compare the proposed indicators against World Happiness Report indicators.

- Within each headline indicator, there is also a need to understand the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on specific affected groups, eg youth unemployment.
- The need to embed inclusive growth ambitions in all of the LEP's and CA activity, and therefore the addition of an "Inclusive Growth Implications" section to all panel reports.
- There was strong support expressed for the pipeline of proposed interventions, with a shared view that ambition should be further increased, including in terms of:
  - Additional support for specific proposed interventions, such as to promote digital inclusion;
  - Prioritising 'early win' interventions, in order to maximise impact, and identify and address any barriers, eg to regional third sector engagement;
  - Ensuring that there is sufficient LEP capacity in place to translate the high-level proposals into delivery;
  - Building on what is already being done locally and to communicate this effectively; and
  - Ensuring that the Inclusive Growth agenda is also strongly integrated within the other LEP agendas that can have a significant positive impact on achieving an inclusive economic recovery, including Business, Innovation & Skills, Green Economy, Housing & Place, and Employment & Skills.

2.4 The remainder of this report provides an update in relation to a revised indicator dashboard, and suggested prioritisation for 'early win' Inclusive Growth interventions.

### **Indicator Set**

2.5 A working draft dashboard of Inclusive Growth indicators was considered at the January Board meeting, and this has been aligned with the Strategic Economic Framework indicators. The dashboard will continue to be updated and revised based on the practical usefulness of the indicators on tracking the delivery of inclusive growth. Appendix 1 includes an updated data set which quantifies some of the issues, inequalities and gaps facing the region, and includes additional measures proposed by Board members at 2.3 in relation to:

- Years of Healthy Life - West Yorkshire underperforms against the national average on healthy life expectancy.
- Early Years - there is a 20-point gap between children in West Yorkshire on free school meals and other early years pupils in terms of the proportion achieving a good level of development.
- Happiness – all personal wellbeing ratings, i.e., of life satisfaction, happiness, and anxiety - both in West Yorkshire and nationally - deteriorated in 2019/20 for the first time since 2011, when ONS first started measuring them. The ratings are overall averages for April

2019 to March 2020, so include the build up to the national lockdown on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, but it appears the changes for some indicators started before the final quarter. For example, although we have seen at the national level a significant reduction in average life satisfaction in the first quarter of 2020, this continued a gradual decline in life satisfaction observed over the previous year.

### Possible 'early win' interventions

- 2.6 Members are also requested to consider potential 'early win' interventions from the pipeline considered in January. Possible opportunities, identified through partner consultation and engagement, were considered by the Board in January, with a range of views expressed as outlined above. The pipeline includes a mixture of building on mainstream/existing activity (eg business support) and entirely fresh regional approaches (for West Yorkshire), eg support for community hubs and broader support for the third sector.
- 2.7 An initial sifting exercise has been undertaken by officers, taking the following factors into account:
- **Investment readiness**, noting some of the proposals are still at an early stage of development, and will require additional capacity to become fully developed as investible propositions, including establishing value for money / return on investment, such as the economic impact and fiscal benefits per any £ invested, and wider social benefits
  - Potential for early delivery and **making an early impact** in terms of addressing socio-economic inequalities, including those exacerbated during the pandemic, such as digital exclusion.
  - **Strategic alignment** with the region's wider economic recovery priorities, such as emerging entrepreneurship/ business support and agreed skills propositions.
  - Ensuring a **balanced programme** of early wins as far as possible against the Framework's thematic goals
- 2.8 On the basis of the above criteria, and subject to the views of the Board, the following interventions have been sifted from the pipeline considered in January and are listed in the table below as potential 'early wins'. Logic models for each proposed 'early win' intervention are included at Appendix 2 containing:
- Intervention/Investment proposed (Top Left Corner)
  - Rationale and Inclusive Growth Goals
  - Outcomes/Impact

<b>Proposed Intervention</b>	<b>Inclusive Growth Framework Goals addressed</b>
Community Hubs	All/ Cross - cutting
Digital Inclusion <sup>1</sup>	All/ Cross - cutting
Good Work Standard/ Charter	Good Work
VCSE Sector Support <sup>2</sup>	Good Work
Social Prescribing	Wellbeing
Inclusive Skills	Relevant and Transferable Skills

2.9 It is recognised that each intervention/package would be subject to a rigorous value for money appraisal and considered alongside other proposals, and further development of costs. Without prejudice to a rigorous appraisal of benefits in relation to cost, the following are potential examples of the types of benefits, namely to: disadvantaged individuals to bridge the inclusivity gap; to the region's economy; and to the public purse - which might be anticipated.

- In terms of support for third sector organisations delivering programmes of support to communities, including through community hubs, and inclusive skills and business support interventions, there is a gain to the individual and wider community ('economic spillover') associated with increased economic activity, and a gain to the public purse ('fiscal spillover') associated with lower spending in areas like

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<sup>1</sup> Officers are also currently developing a clearer picture of current Gigabit capable (up to one Gigabit per second) broadband coverage of West Yorkshire. This work will outline where public sector support for commercial delivery is currently happening and where it could go in the future. This information will be discussed at a future LEP Board meeting. The enhanced understanding of gigabit capable broadband coverage and take- up of services will provide part of the evidence base for future digital inclusion projects.

<sup>2</sup> Includes the following components:

- Co-ordination and advocacy
- Capacity Building
- Sector support, including Social Enterprise Start-ups/ spin outs – which would be complementary to the proposals contained in the Economic Recovery Plan ambitions around Entrepreneurship discussed elsewhere on the agenda.

health, benefits and criminal justice. For example, work by Pro Bono Economics suggests that every £1 invested in such programmes generates somewhere in the region of £6 in wider gains.

- By addressing physical and mental health conditions and thereby inequalities eg through a non-medical social prescribing route, fiscal benefits accrue from reduced healthcare spend and benefits payments.
- The successful implementation of a regional Good Work Standard has the potential to increase the proportion of the region's workforce being paid the real living wage. As an illustrative example, if a quarter of the 302,000 workers in LCR who currently earn below the real living wage benefited from this uplift, it would derive an estimated local economic benefit of £54m p.a., and benefit public finances by c.£33m p.a.

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

- 3.1 It is anticipated that the Inclusive Growth Framework will directly influence and shape an inclusive approach to delivering a net zero economy.

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

- 4.1 The report seeks to further develop measures for tracking progress, and to identify early interventions, in relation to the delivery of inclusive growth.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The report sets out a potential programme of inclusive growth 'early wins' to which could form part of the Single Investment Fund. The scale of any funding ask would need to be established and authorised by the Combined Authority, subject to satisfying value for money requirements.

### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 None arising directly as a result of this report.

### **7. Staffing Implications**

- 7.1 None arising directly as a result of this report.

### **8. External Consultees**

- 8.1 None undertaken in relation to the development of this report.

### **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 Board members are requested to:

- Comment on and agree the addition to the Inclusive Growth Dashboard of the indicators shown at Section 2.5.

- Discuss and endorse in principle the proposed 'early win' Inclusive Growth interventions set out at Section 2.8, noting that any funding decisions rest with the Combined Authority.

## **10. Background Documents**

10.1 None

## **11. Appendices**

11.1 Appendix 1 - Updated Inclusive Growth Indicators

11.2 Appendix 2 – Potential 'early win' Inclusive Growth interventions

# Appendix 1

## Inclusive Growth Framework

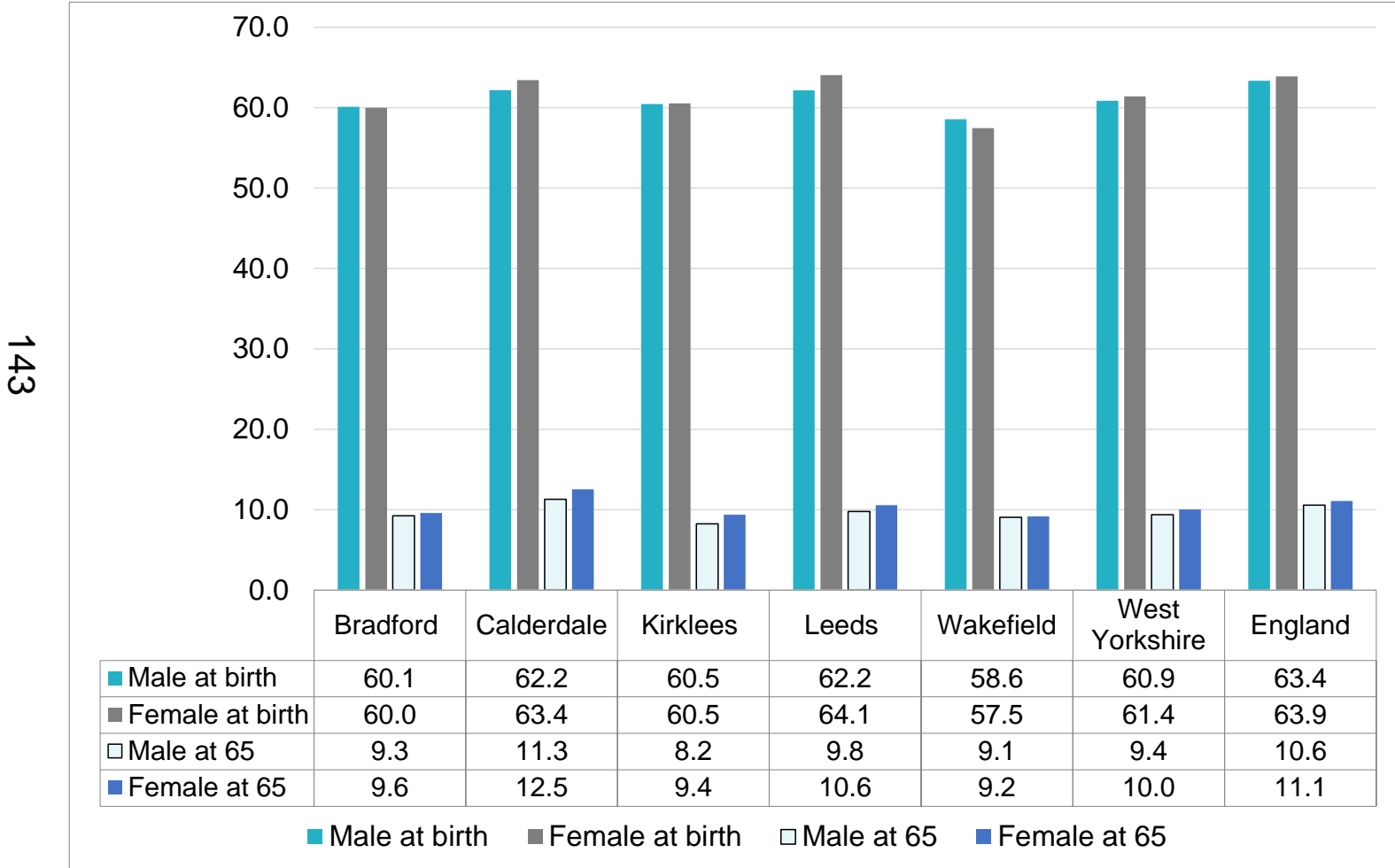
**Updated Working Draft Indicators Tracking**

# Goal 1 - Wellbeing



# West Yorkshire underperforms national average on healthy life expectancy

Figure: Healthy life expectancy at birth and at age 65 by gender



Leeds City Region  
Enterprise  
Partnership

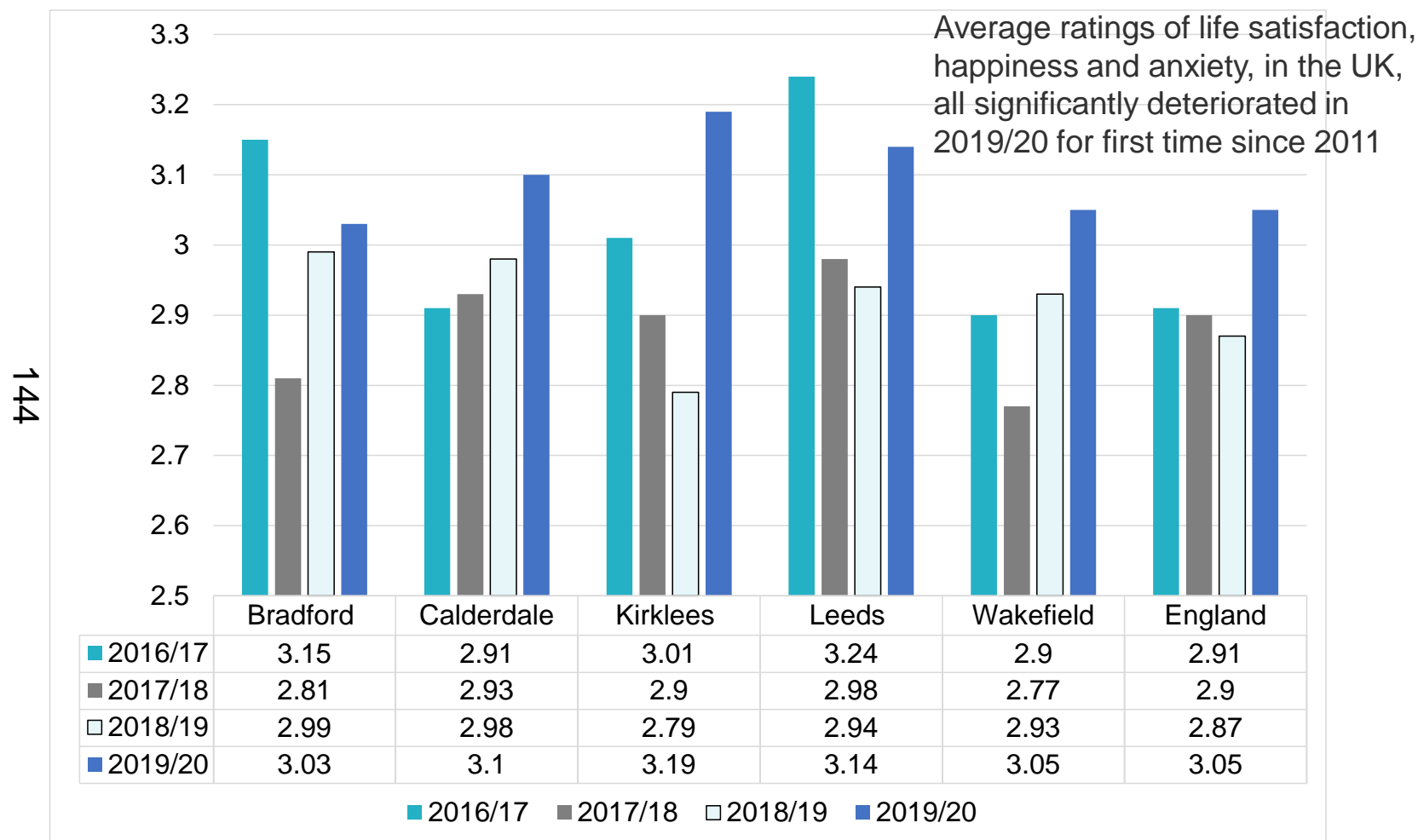
Working in  
partnership  
with the



Source: Office for National Statistics, Health state life expectancies, UK: 2016 to 2018

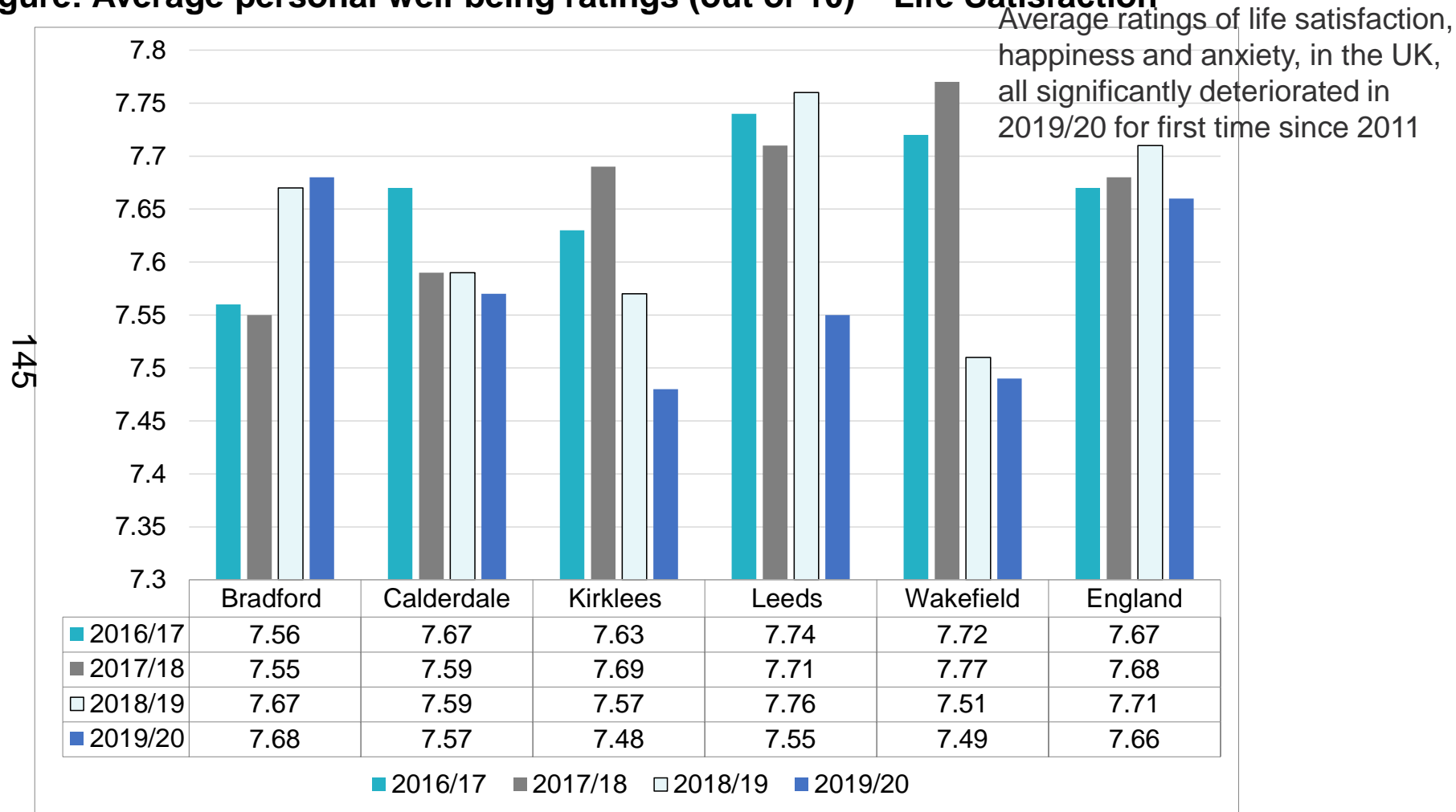
# Average ratings of anxiety increased across England and West Yorkshire in latest data

**Figure: Average personal well-being ratings (out of 10) - Anxiety**



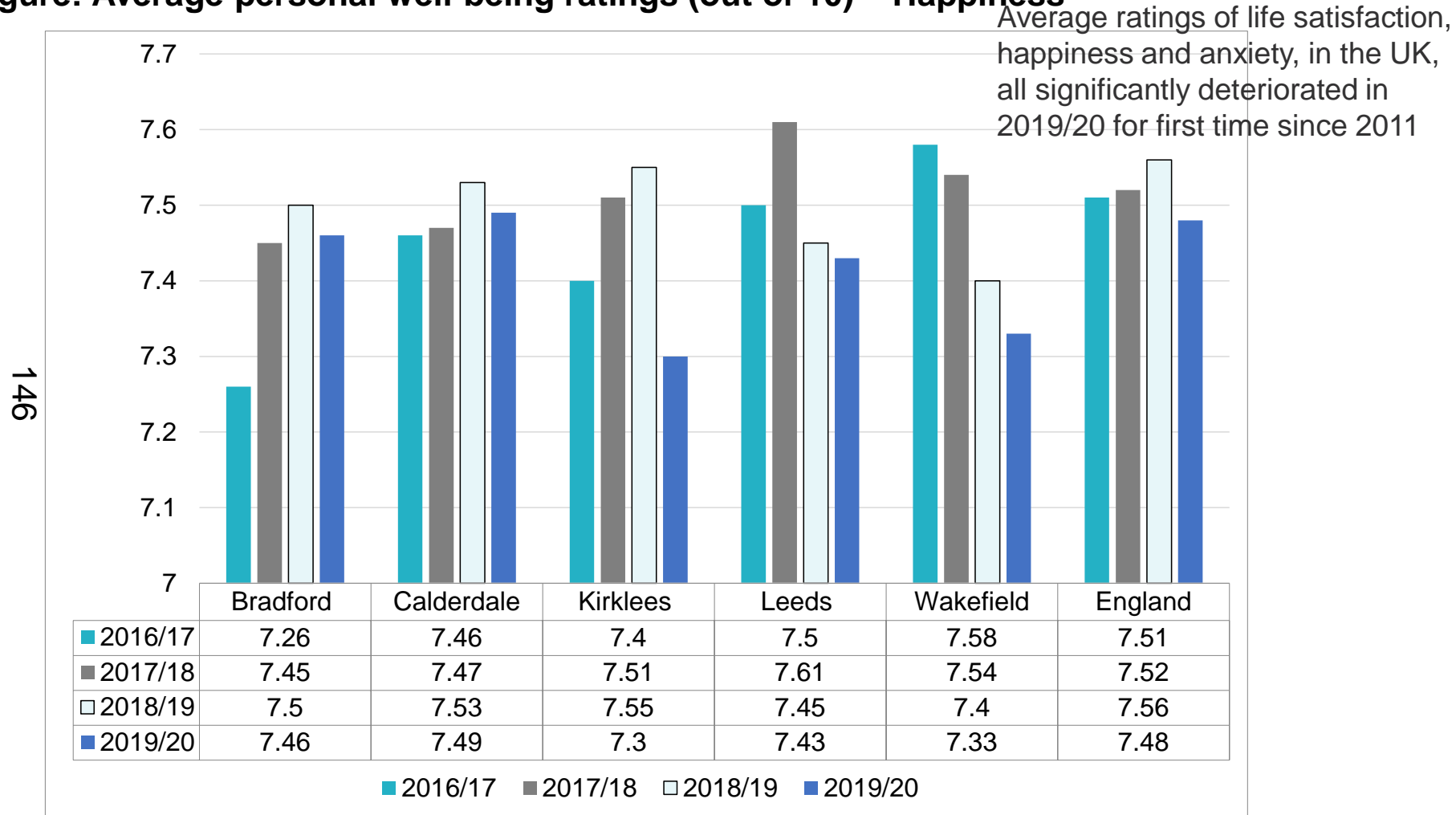
# Average ratings of Life Satisfaction fell in latest data

**Figure: Average personal well-being ratings (out of 10) – Life Satisfaction**



# Average ratings of Happiness fell in latest data

**Figure: Average personal well-being ratings (out of 10) – Happiness**



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Enterprise  
Partnership**

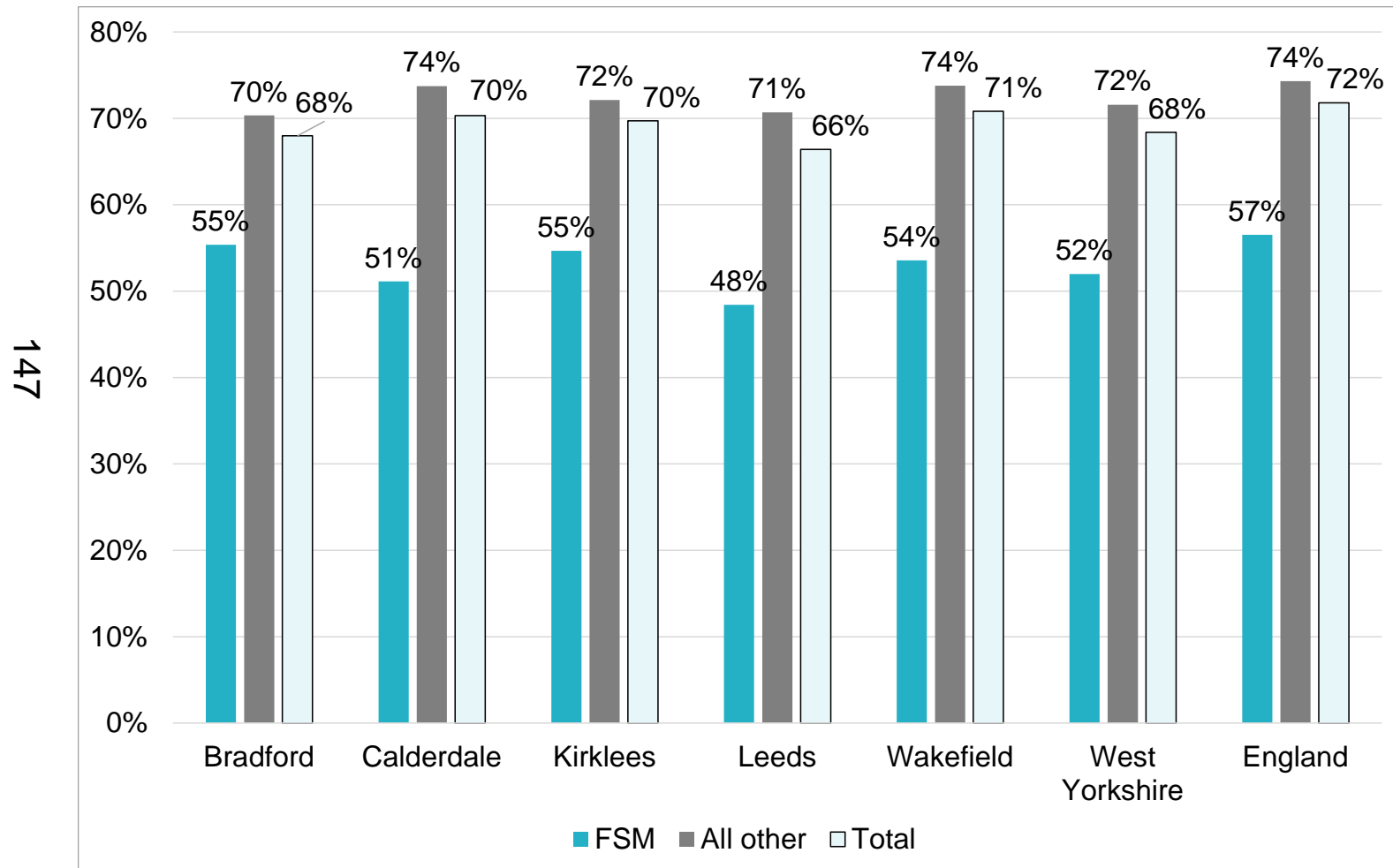
Working in  
partnership  
with the



*“Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?”*  
Source: Office for National Statistics – Annual  
Population Survey

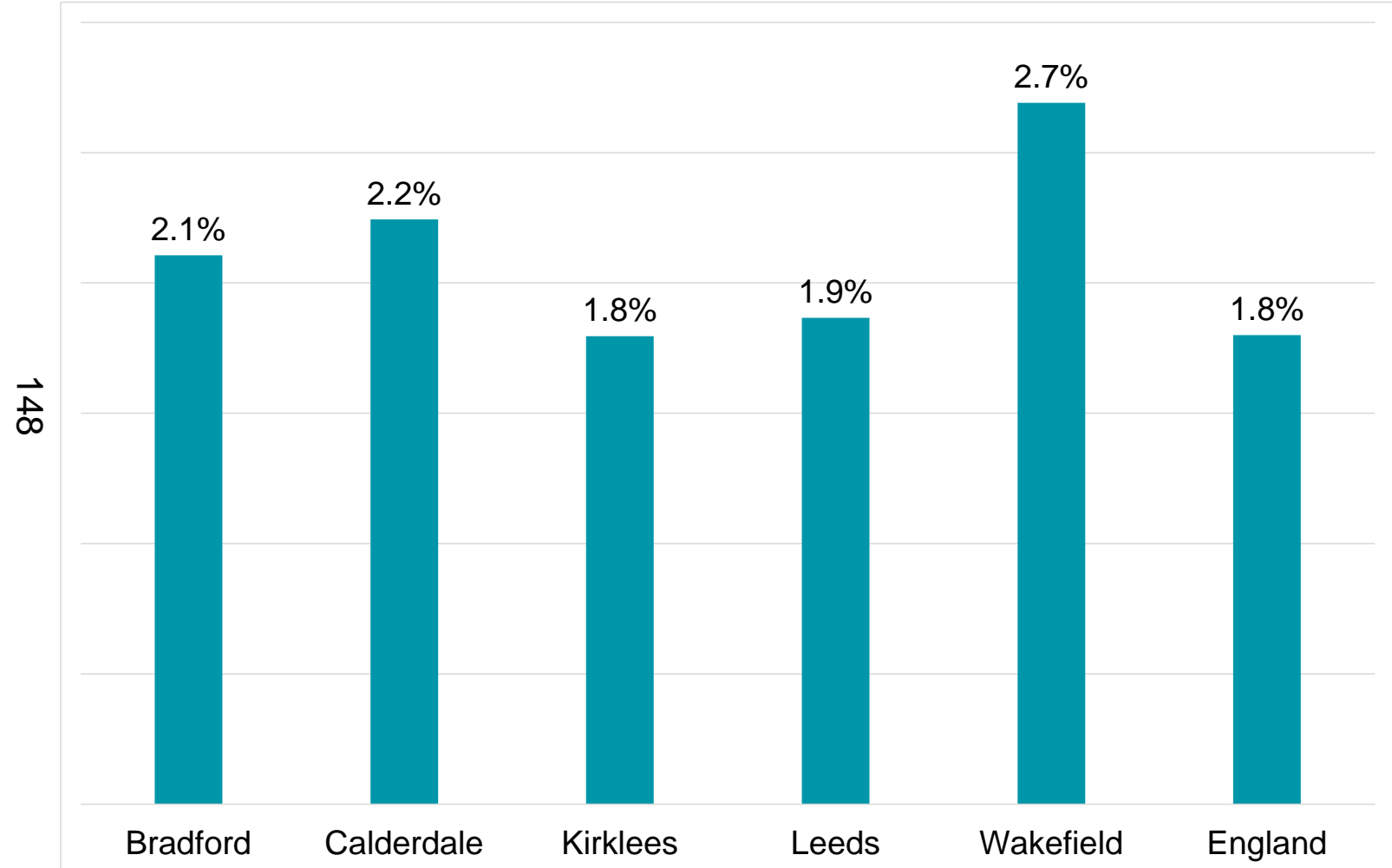
# 20-point gap between FSM and other Early Years pupils in terms of % achieving a good level of development

Figure: Early years foundation stage profile: % achieving a good level of development



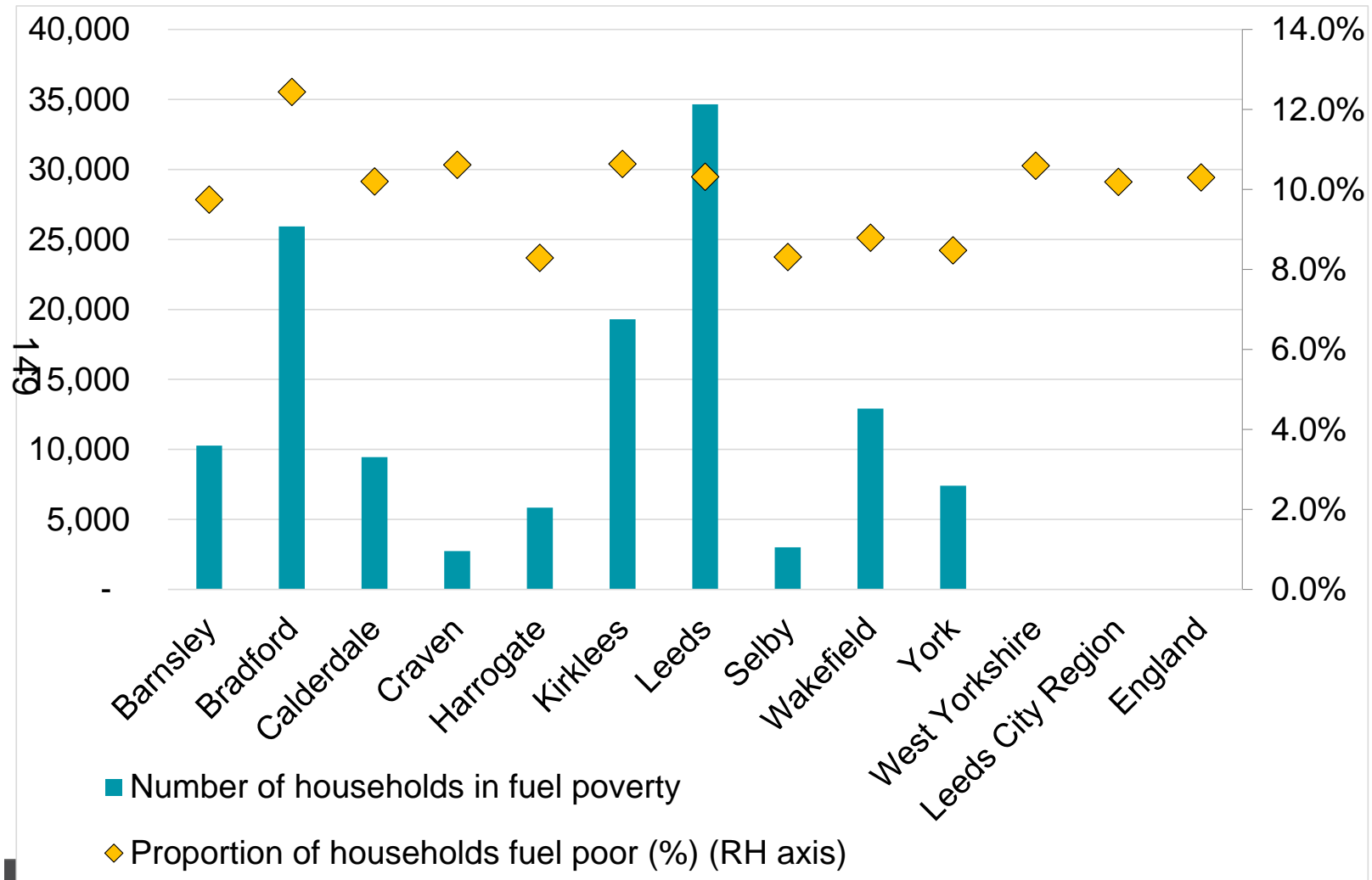
# Sickness absence levels are broadly similar to national average

Figure: Sickness absence rate by local authority, 2018



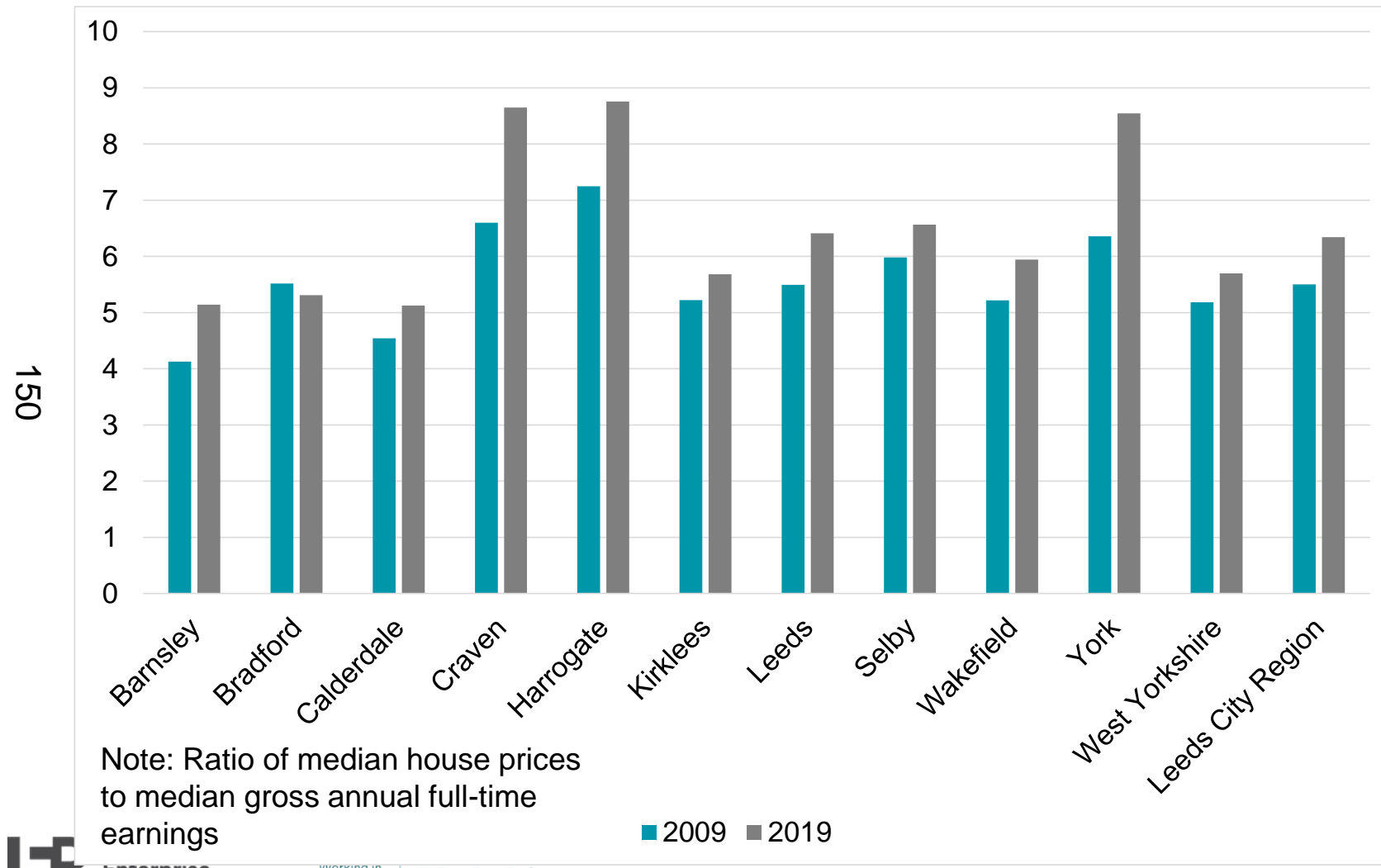
# 10% of households in the City Region are in fuel poverty

Figure: Number and % of households in fuel poverty, 2018



# Housing affordability is a growing challenge in some parts of the City Region

Figure: Housing affordability ratio by district, 2019



Note: Ratio of median house prices to median gross annual full-time earnings



Enterprise Partnership

Working in partnership with the



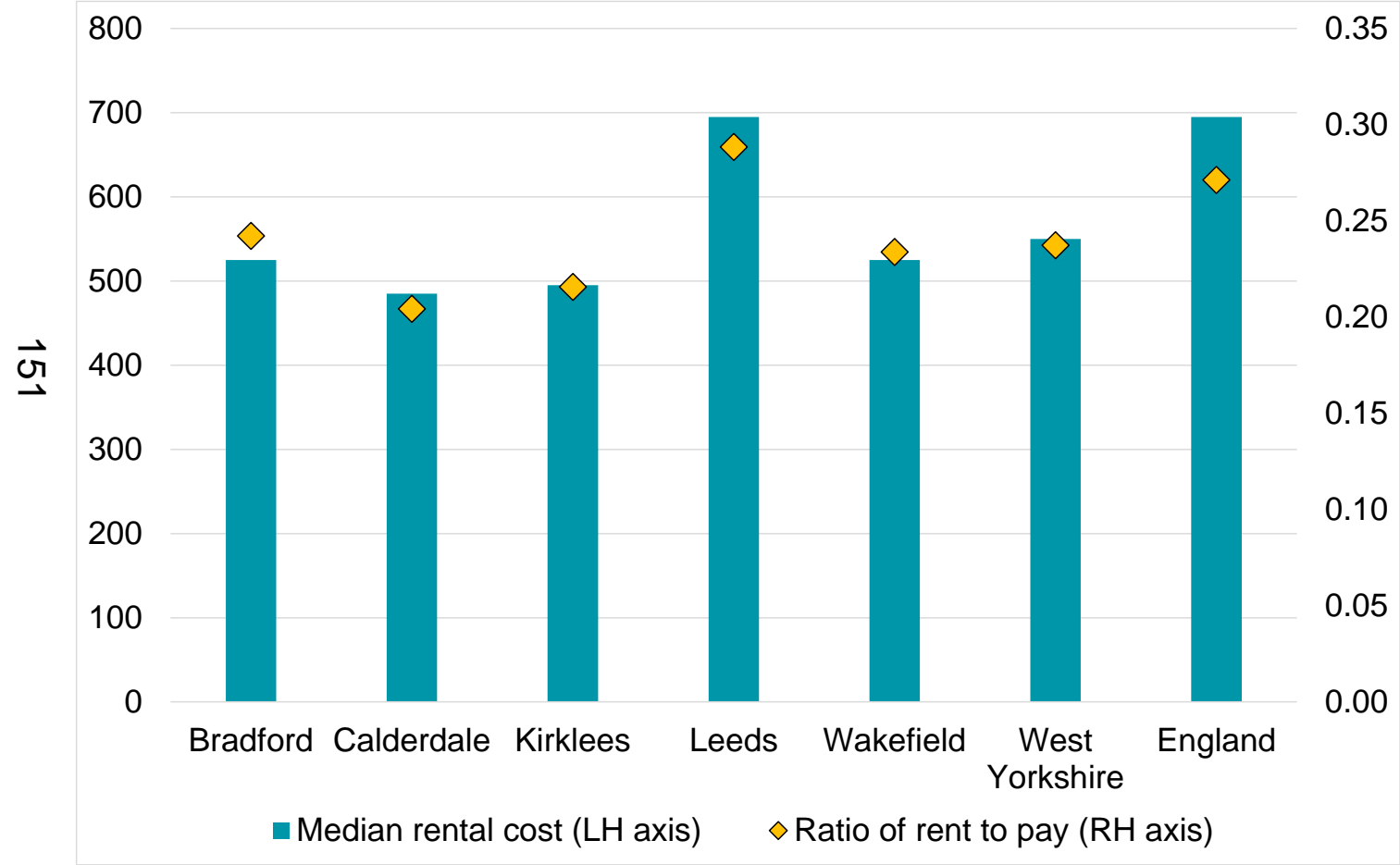
2009 2019

Source: House Price Statistics for Small Areas (HPSSAs), Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings



# Rental costs are high relative to pay in Leeds

Figure: 'Two Bedrooms' monthly rents recorded between 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020



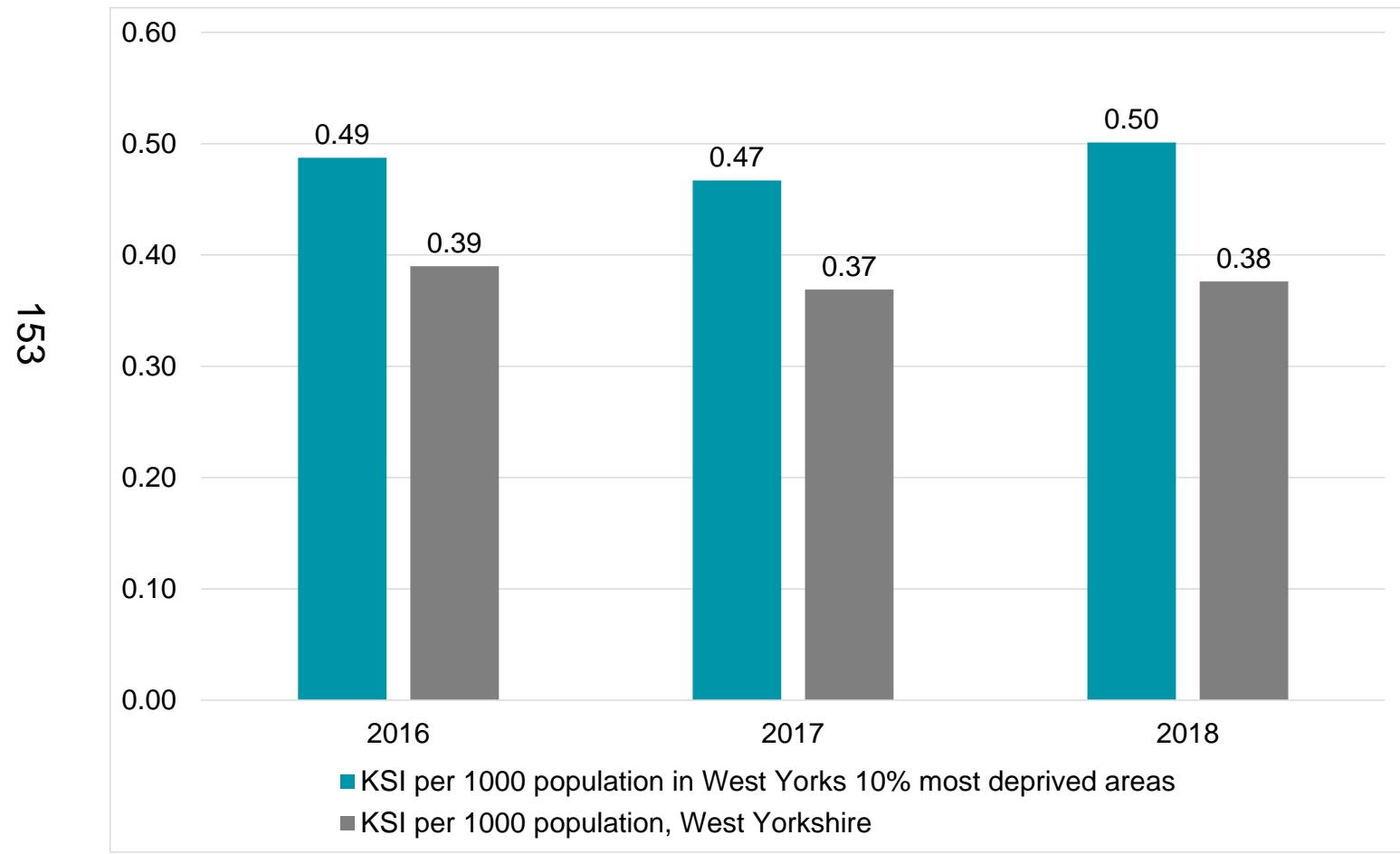
Note: Ratio = 2 bedroom monthly rents versus gross median monthly pay

Source: *Private Rental Market Statistics, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics*

## Goal 2 – Connectivity & Accessibility

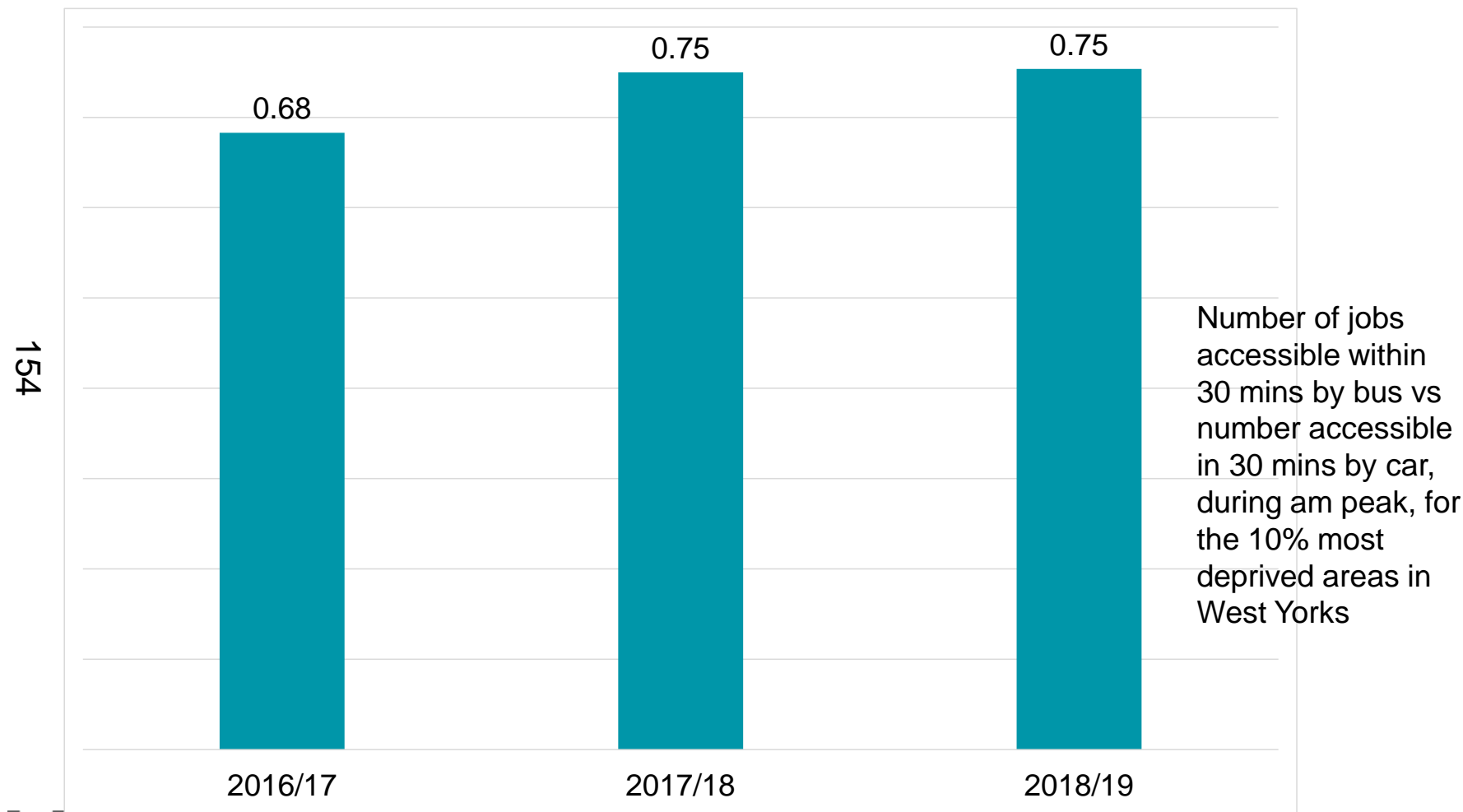
# Residents of deprived areas are at greater risk of death or serious injury as a result of road traffic accidents

Figure Ratio of annual KSI road casualties and total resident population



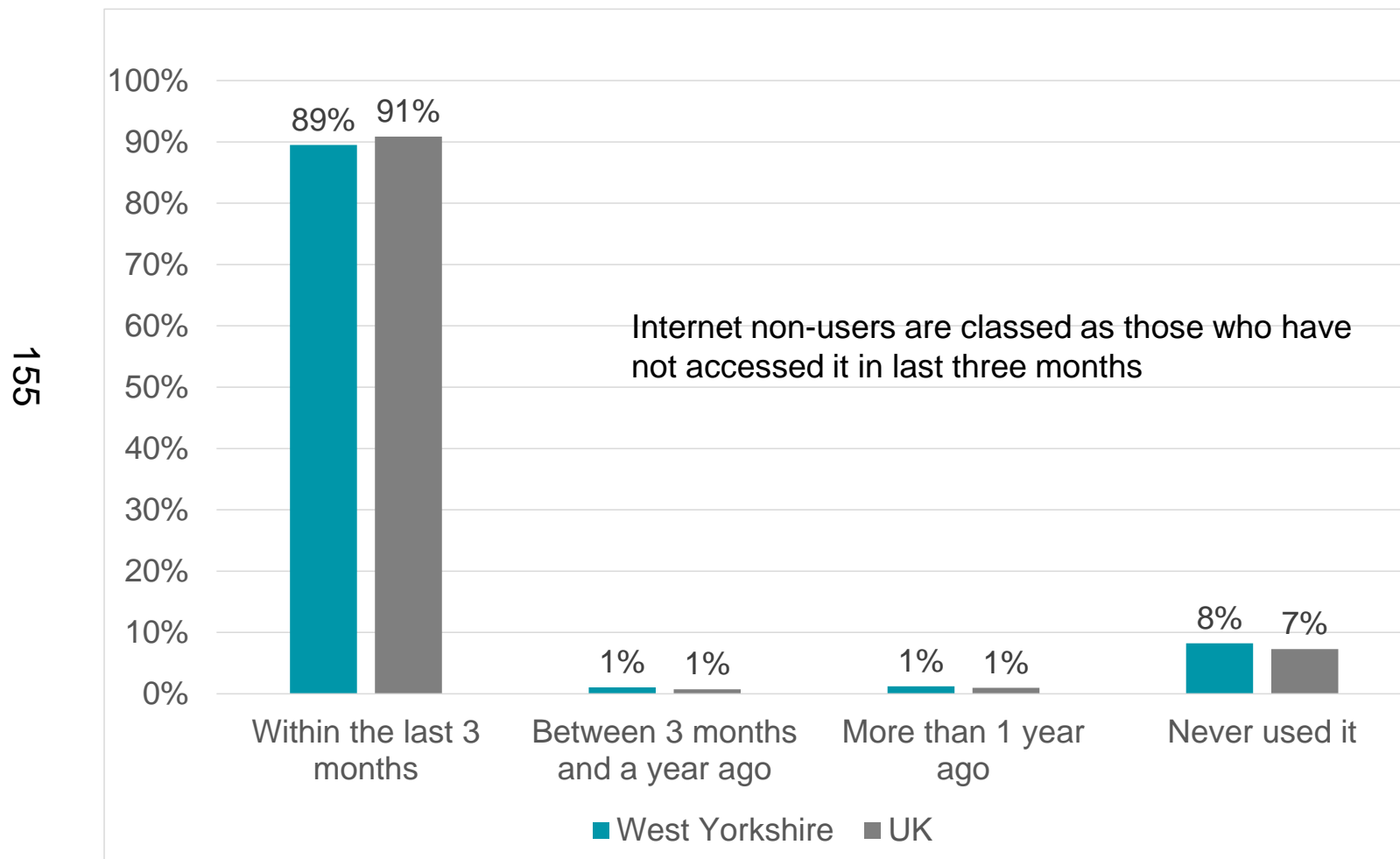
# 75% of jobs accessible by car from deprived areas are accessible by bus within 30 mins

Figure: Access inequality ratio (employment), West Yorks



# 11% of adults do not use the internet

**Figure: Period within which last used internet**



Leeds City Region  
Enterprise  
Partnership

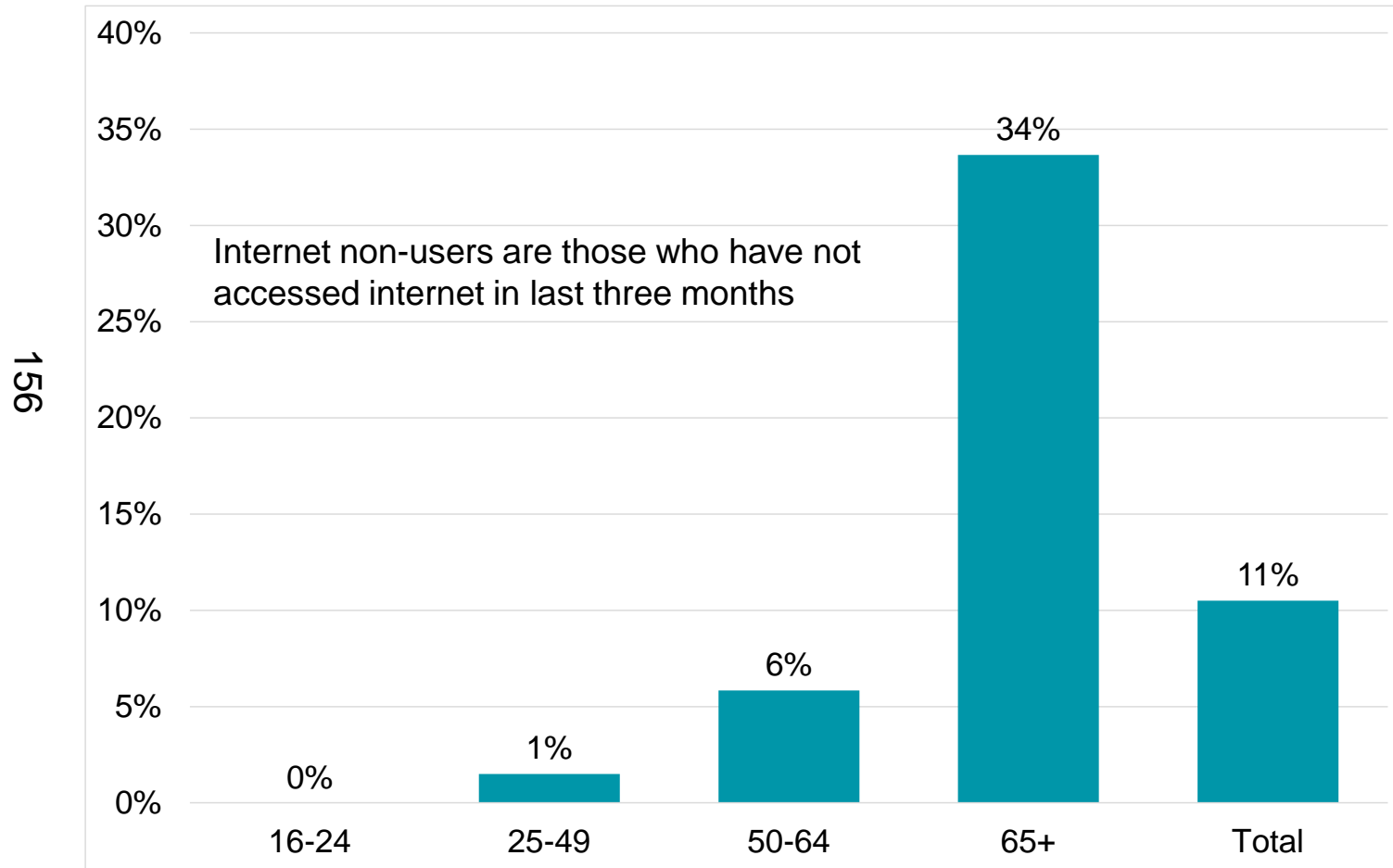
Working in  
partnership  
with the

West  
Yorkshire  
Combined  
Authority

Source: Labour Force Survey, January to March 2020

# One third of people over 65+ are internet non-users

**Figure: Proportion of population who are internet non-users by age band, West Yorkshire**



**Leeds City Region  
Enterprise  
Partnership**

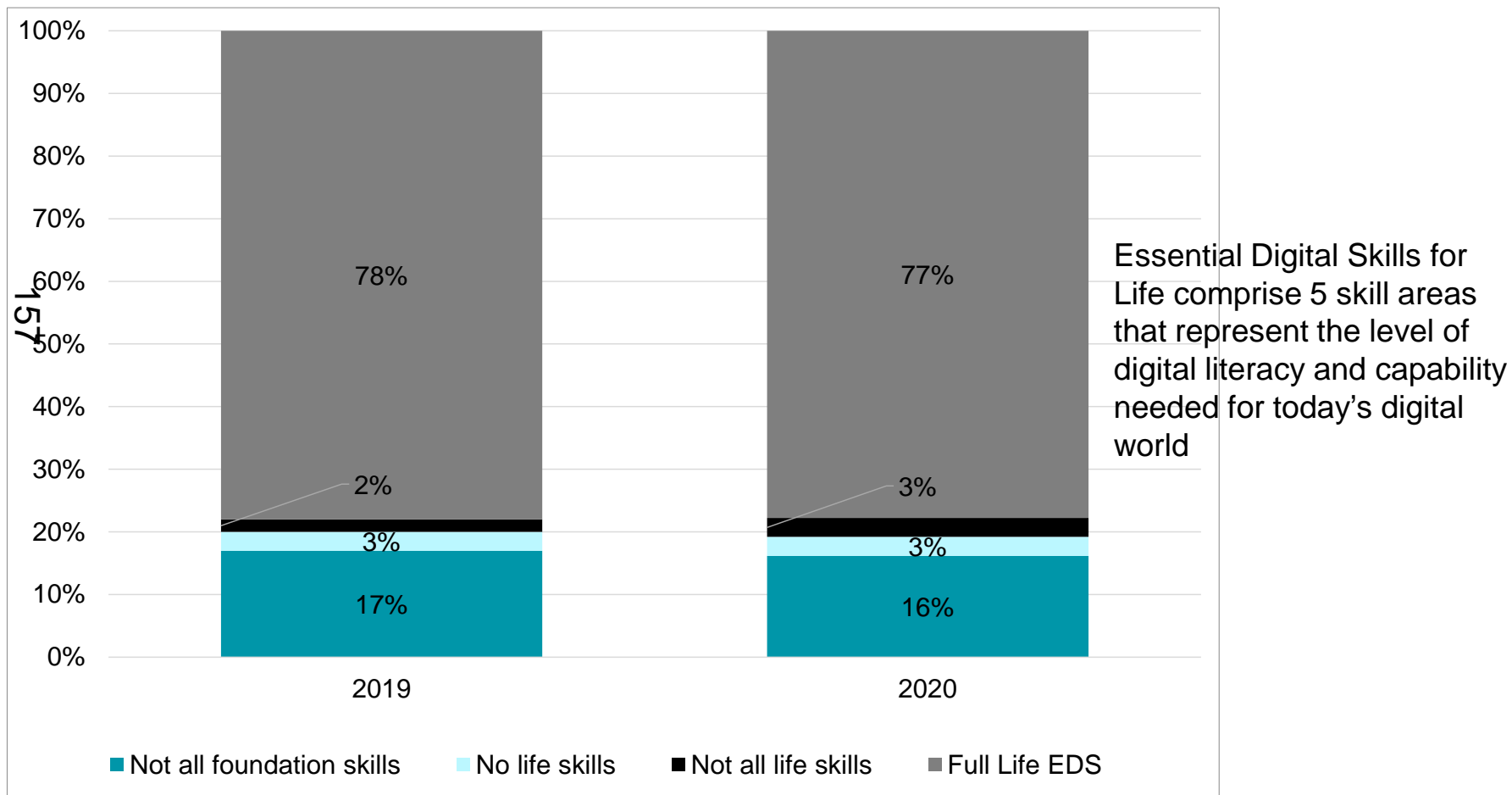
Working in  
partnership  
with the

**West  
Yorkshire**  
Combined  
Authority

*Source: Labour Force Survey, January to March 2020*

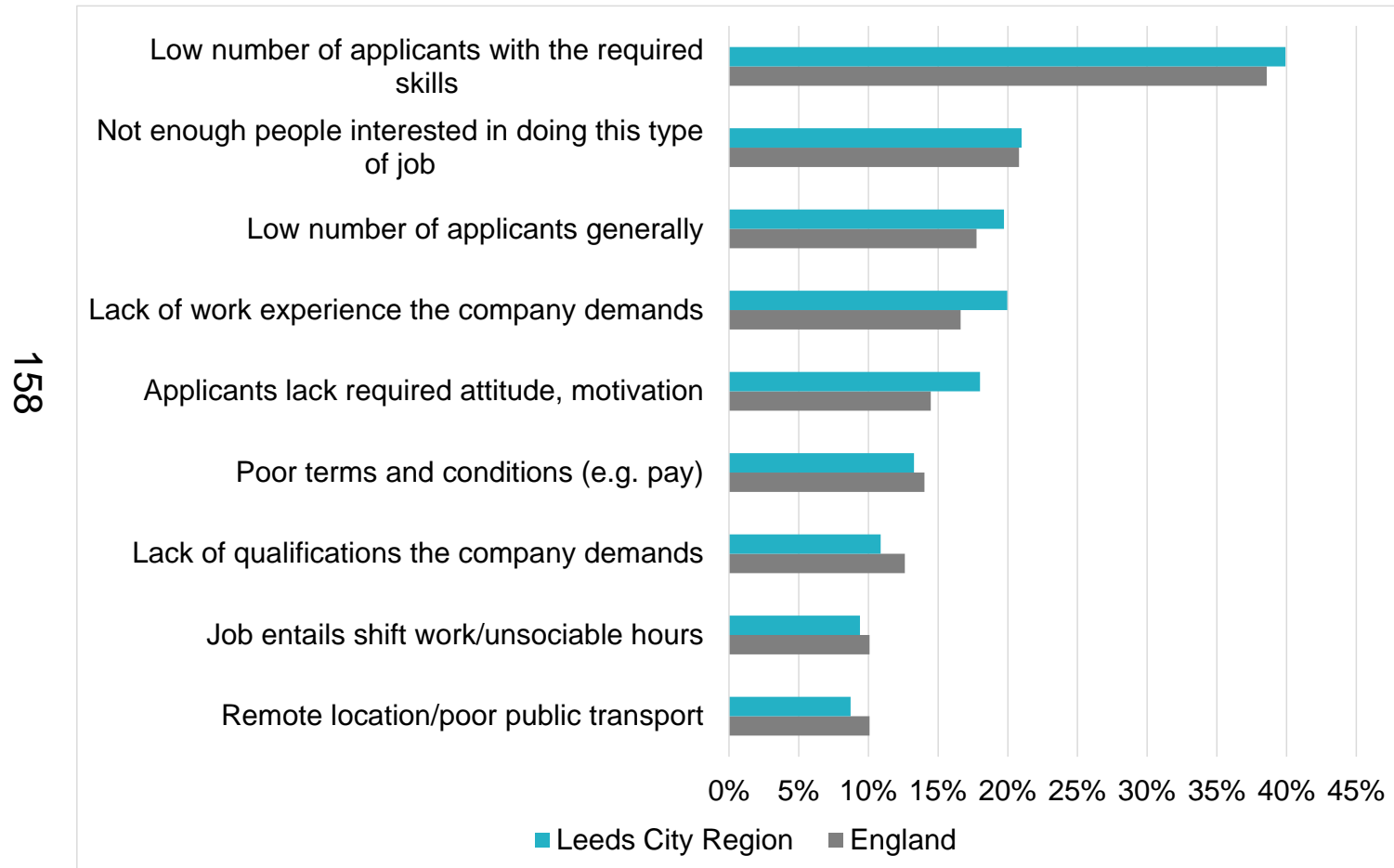
# 23% of adults in Yorkshire lack the full range of Essential Digital Skills for Life

**Figure: Proportion of people aged 15+ and their level of EDS for Life, Yorkshire and the Humber**



# 1-in-10 employers with hard-to-fill vacancies say location / access via public transport are a cause

**Figure: Proportion of employers citing each of following as cause for hard-to-fill vacancies**



**Leeds City Region  
Enterprise  
Partnership**

Working in  
partnership  
with the



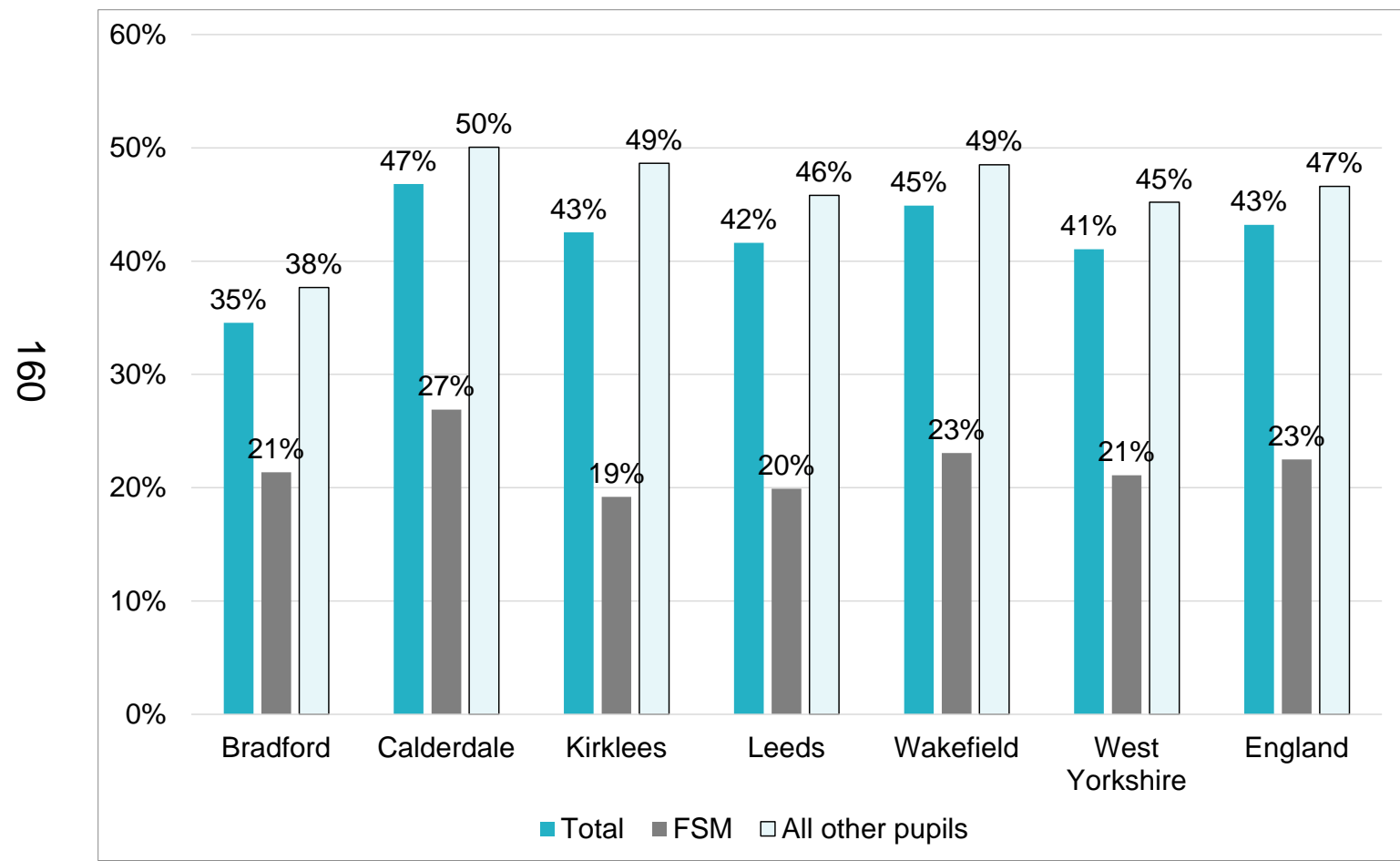
*Source: Employer Skills Survey 2019*



## Goal 3 – Transferable and Relevant Skills

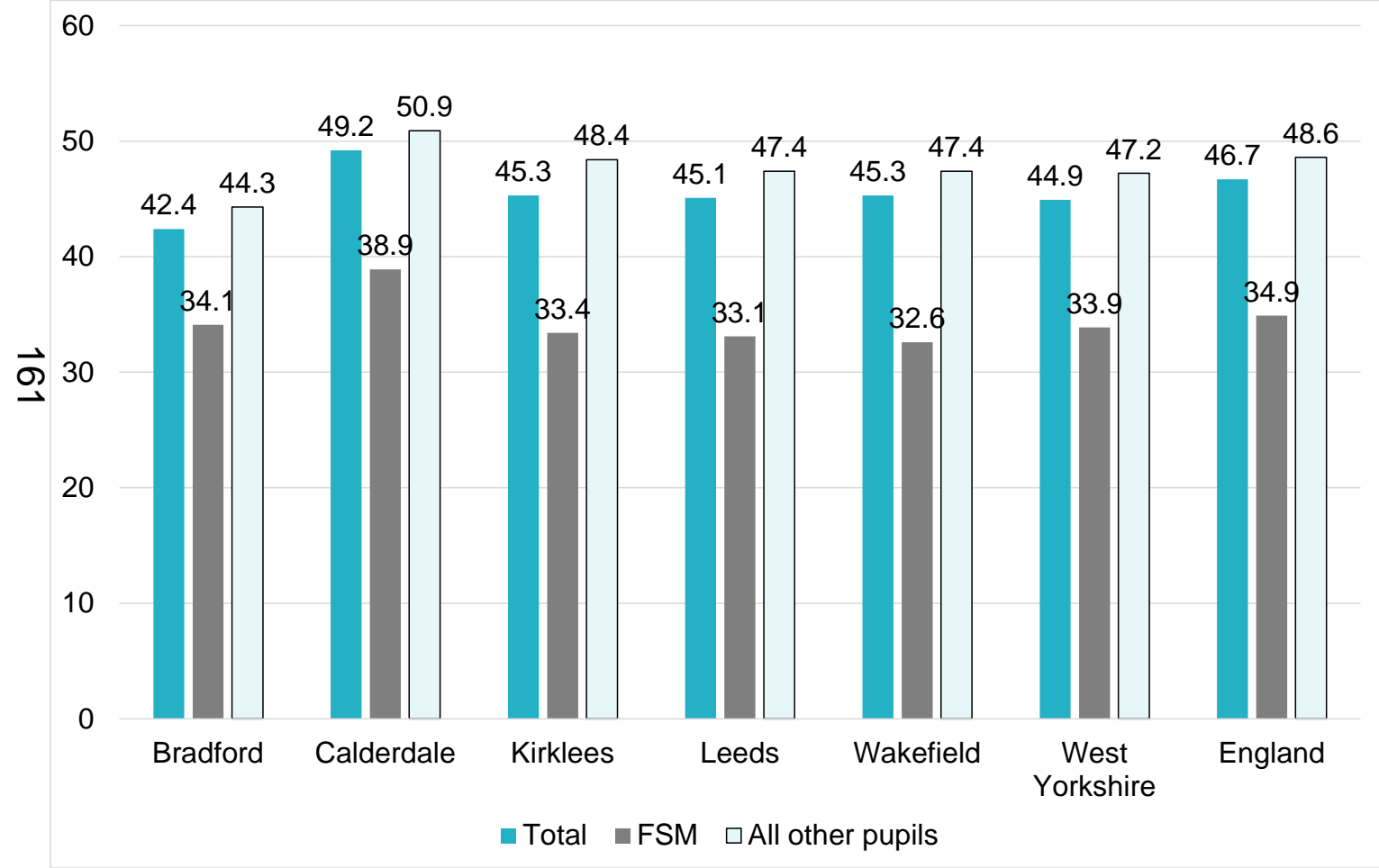
# Free school meal pupils underperform at KS4

Figure: % of pupils achieving 9-5 in English and Maths GCSEs by free school meal status



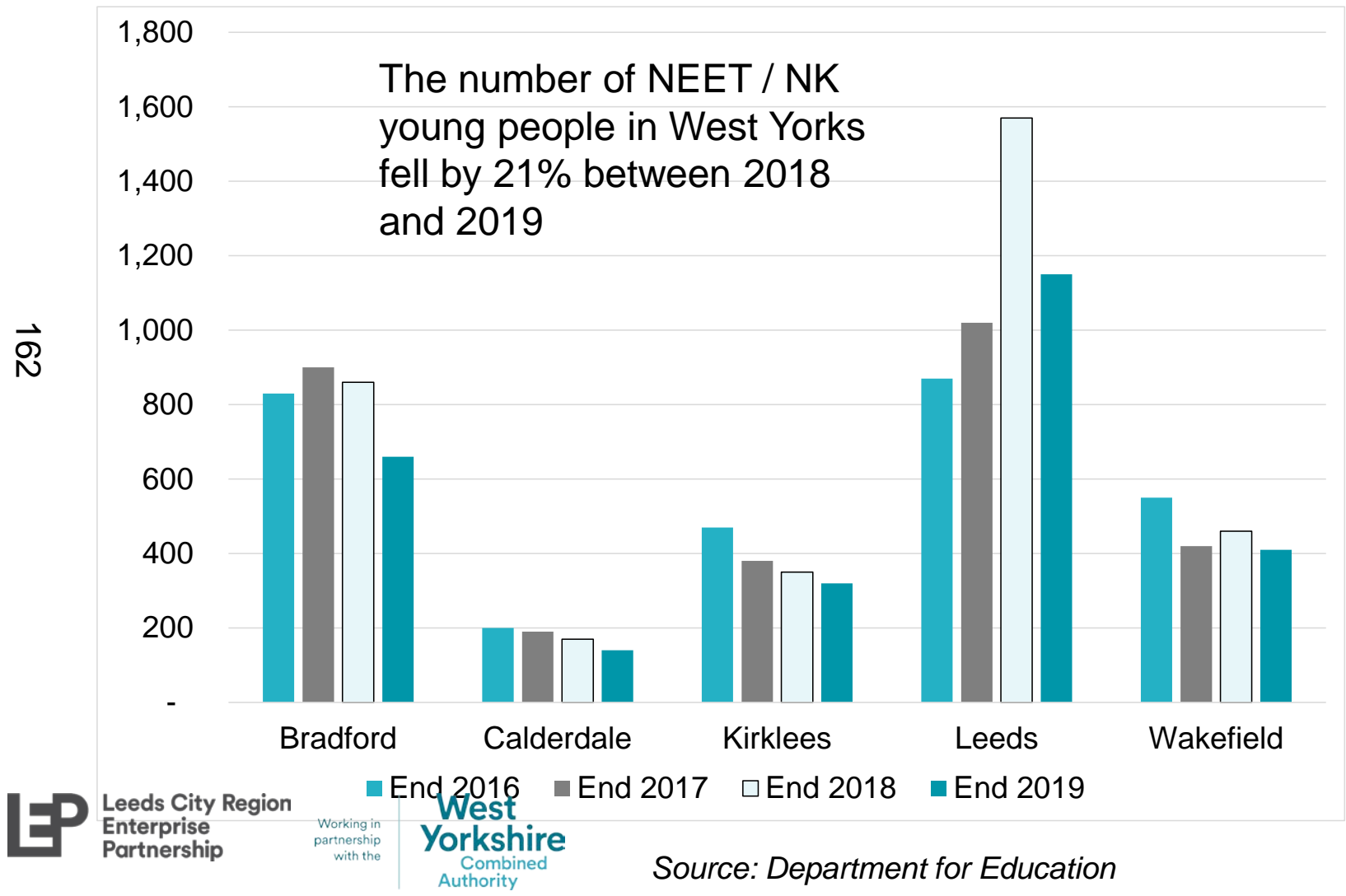
# Free school meal pupils underperform at KS4

Figure: Average Attainment 8 score per pupil by free school meal status



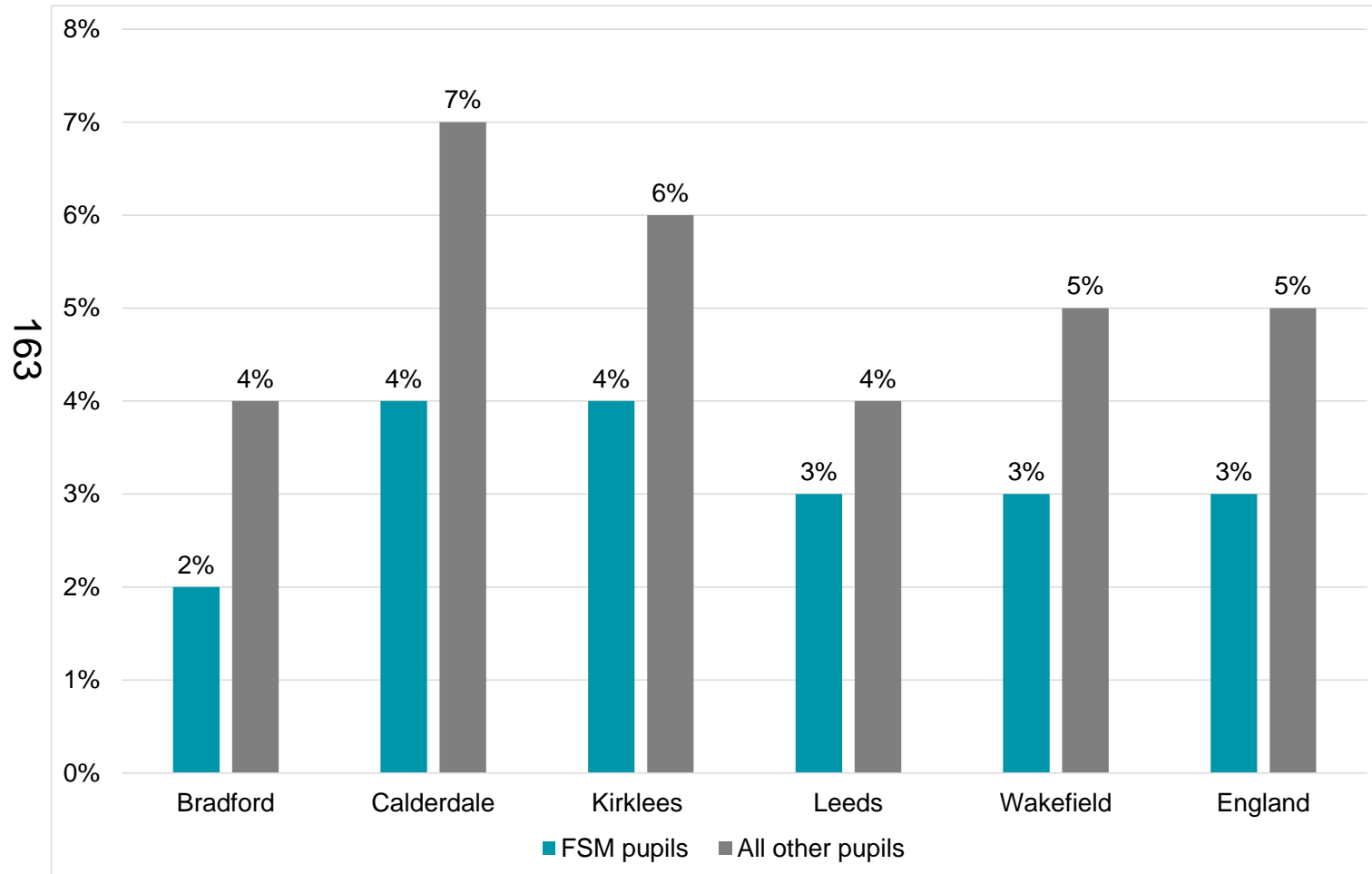
# NEET numbers were falling prior to the Covid crisis

Figure: Number of 16 and 17 year olds who are NEET or whose activity is not known



# Disadvantaged pupils are less likely to participate in apprenticeships

**Figure: % of pupils entering sustained apprenticeship following completion of key stage 4 by free school meal status**

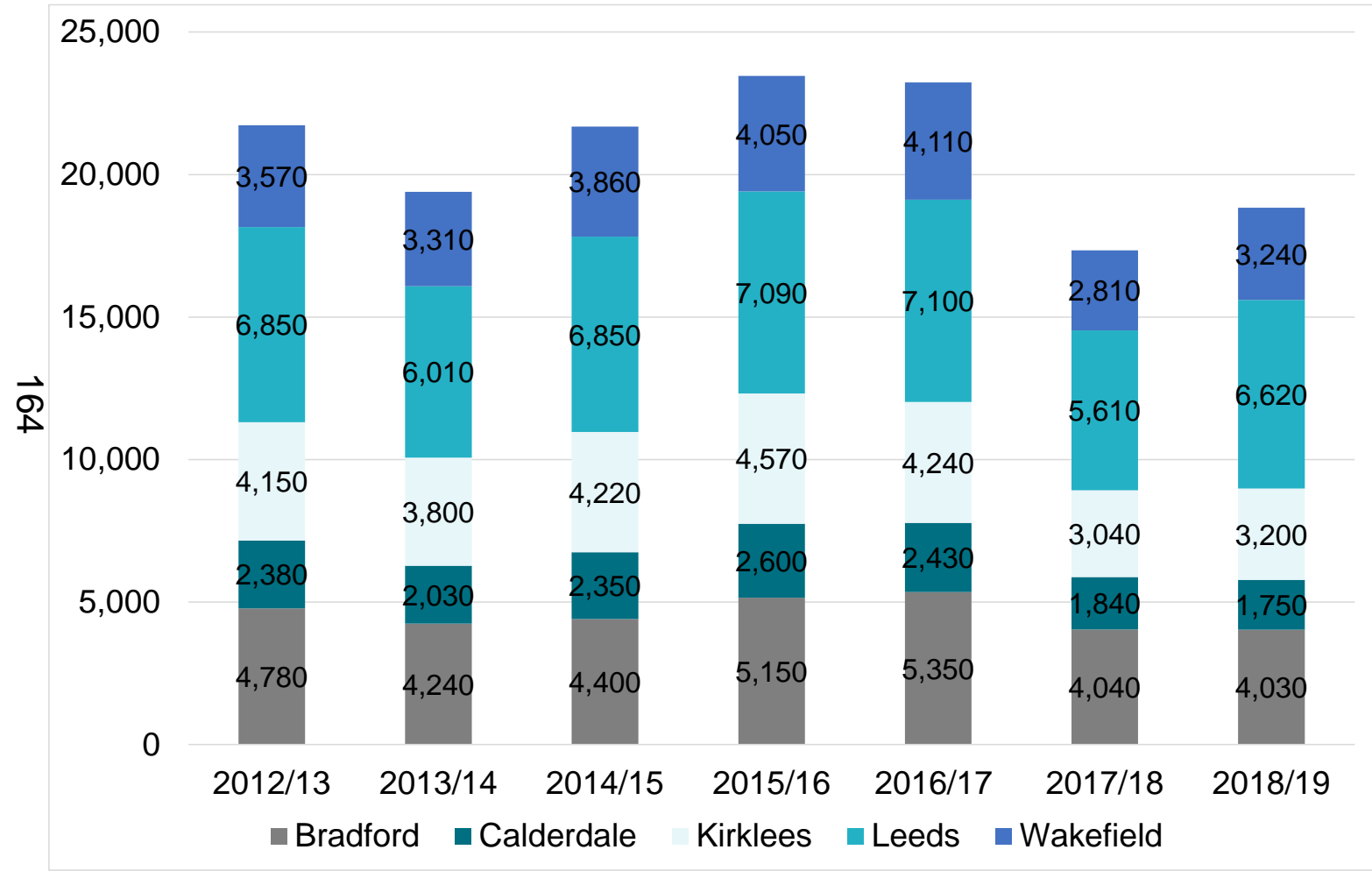


*Note: Analysis shows 2017/18 destinations for the 2016/17 cohort (state-funded mainstream and special schools).*

*Source: Department for Education.*

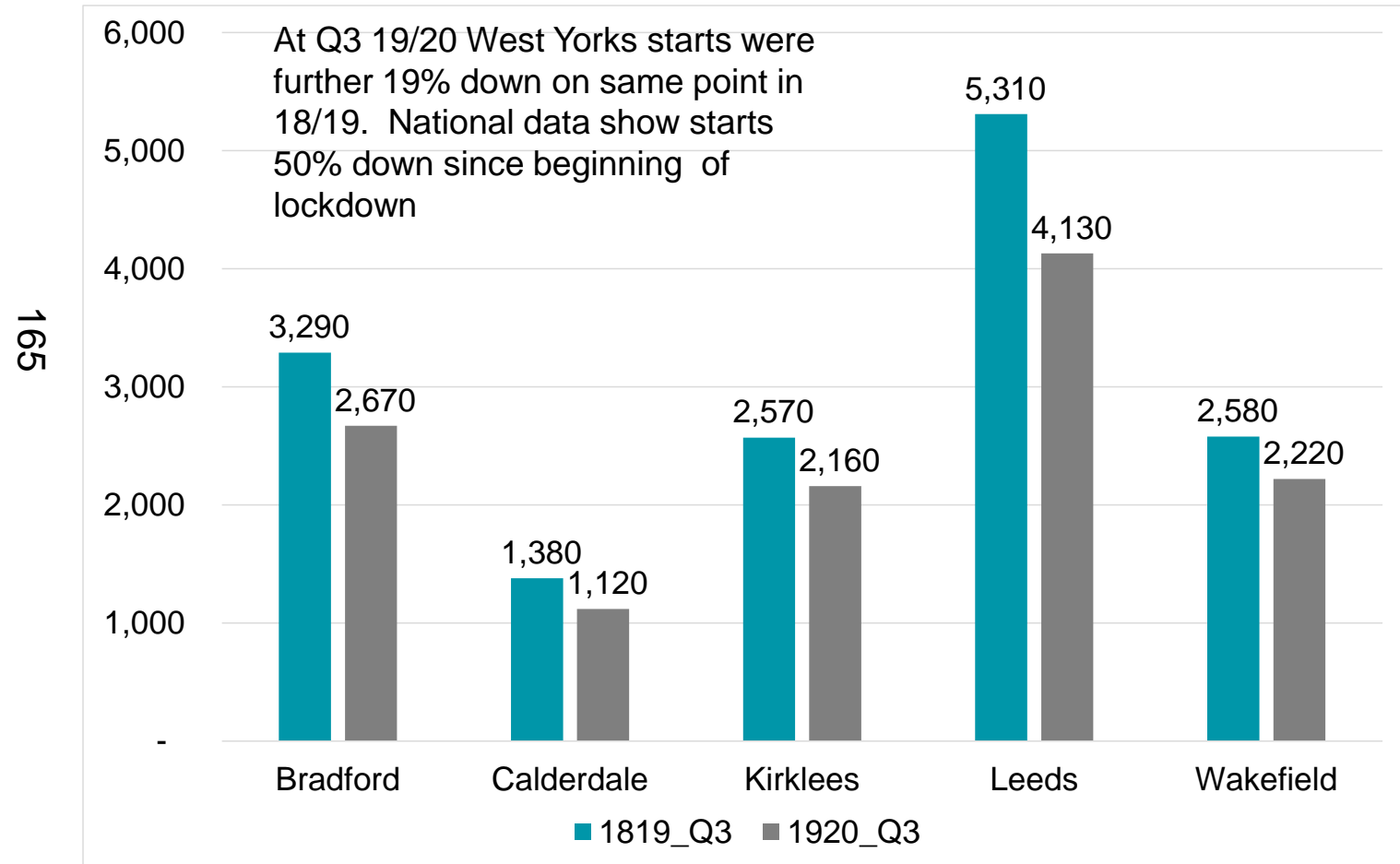
# Apprenticeship starts in West Yorkshire were 19% lower in 2018/19 than in 2016/17

Figure: Trend in apprenticeship starts by district



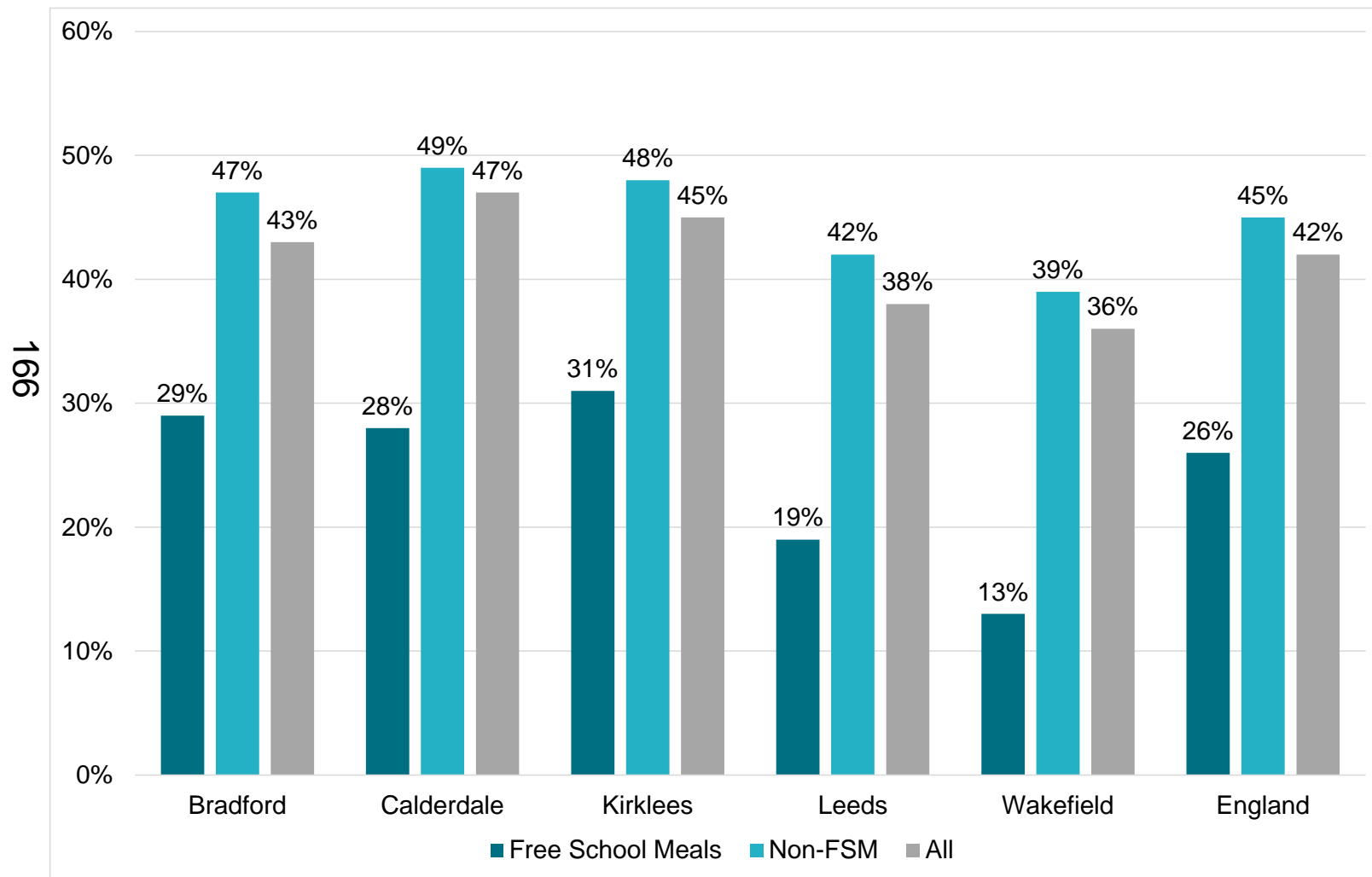
# Provisional figures suggest that apprenticeship starts were significantly down in 2019/20

**Figure: Apprenticeship starts by district at Q3 2019/20 academic year versus Q3 2018/19**



# Disadvantaged pupils are less likely to participate in higher education

**Figure: % of pupils from state-funded and special schools entering higher education by free school meal status**



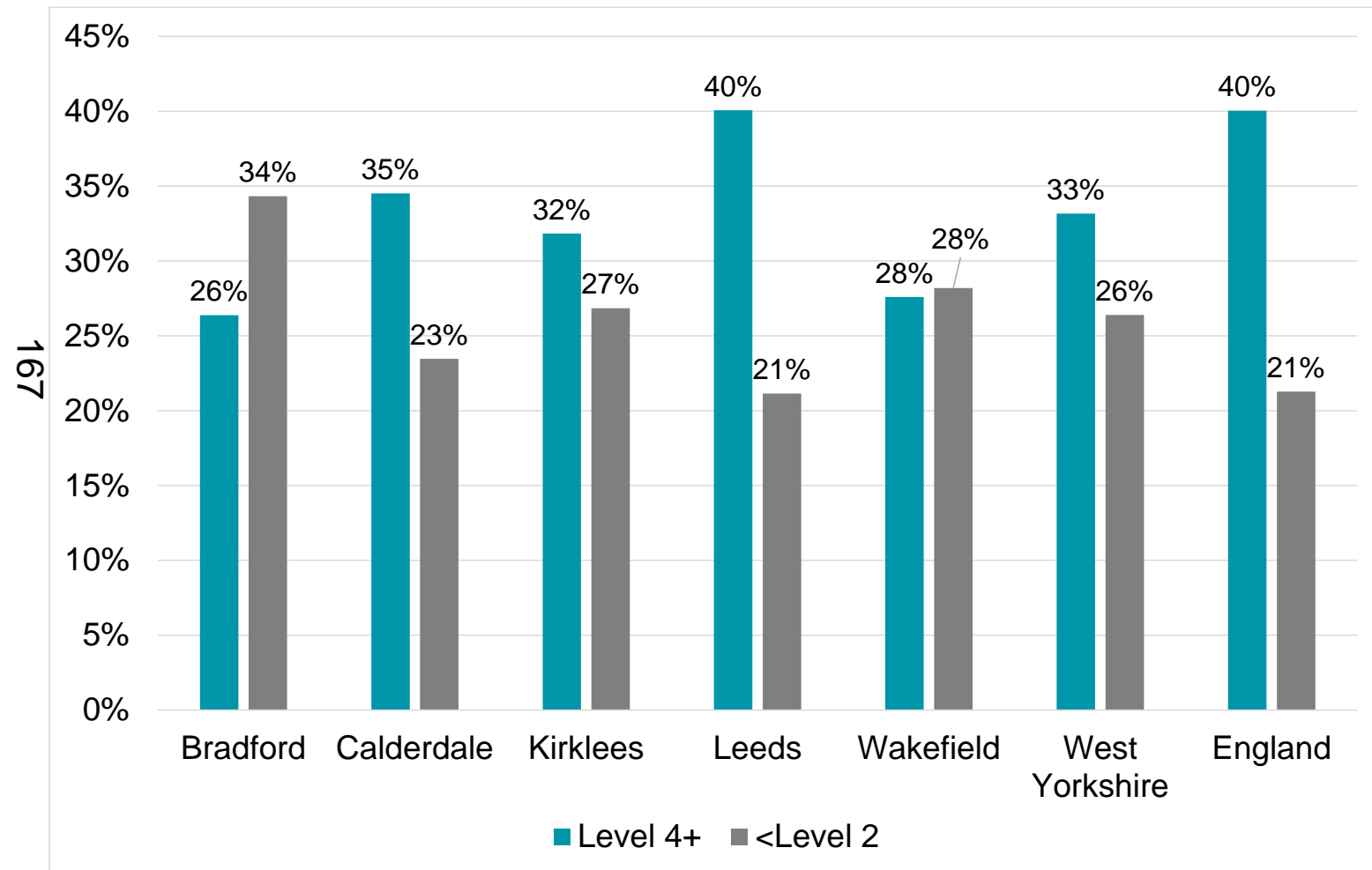
*Note: Entered HE by age 19 in 2017/18 academic year*

*Source: Department for Education*



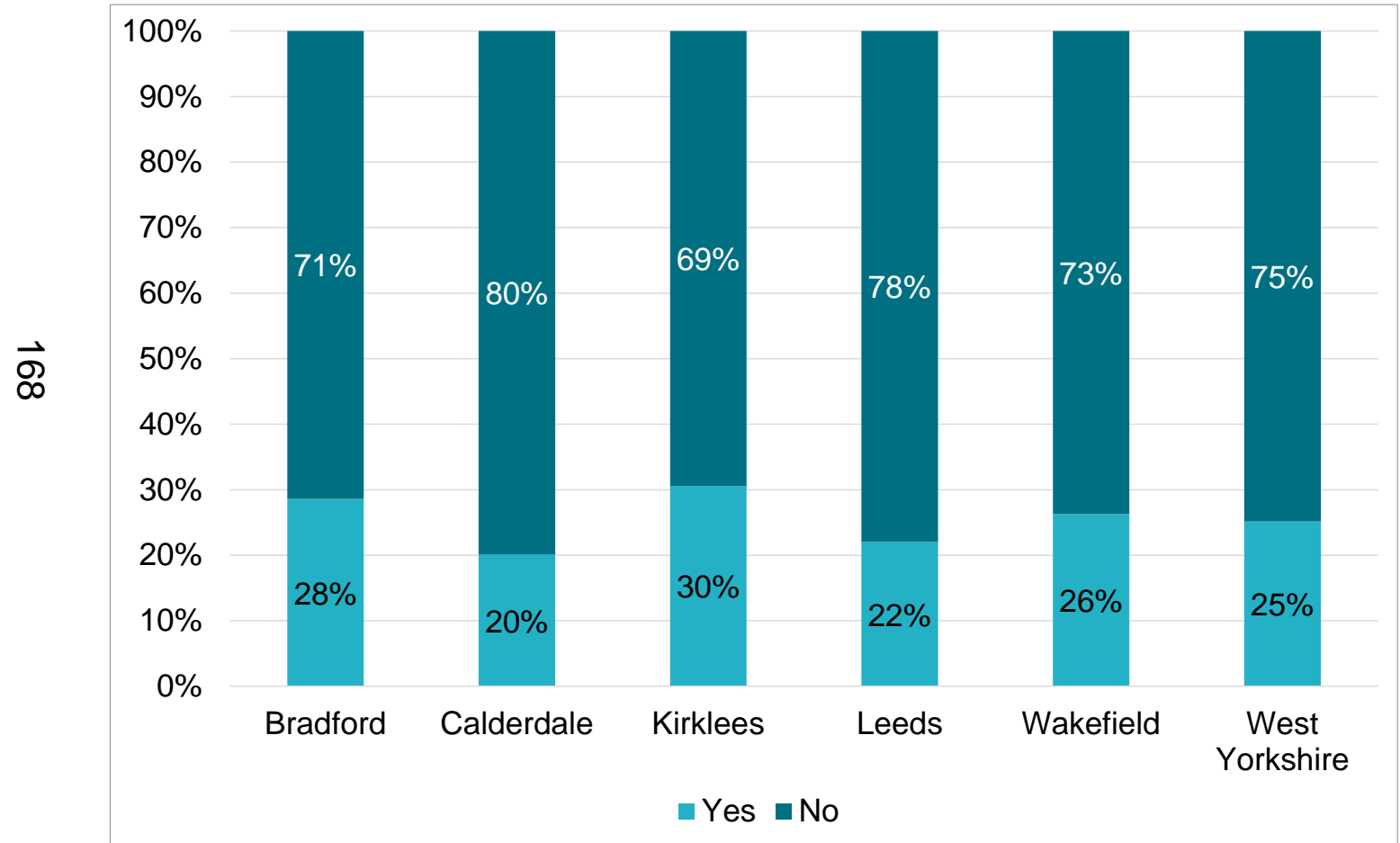
# More than a quarter of adults in West Yorks are low qualified (<L2) rising to more than a third in Bradford

Figure: Profile of highest qualification held by working age (16-64) population



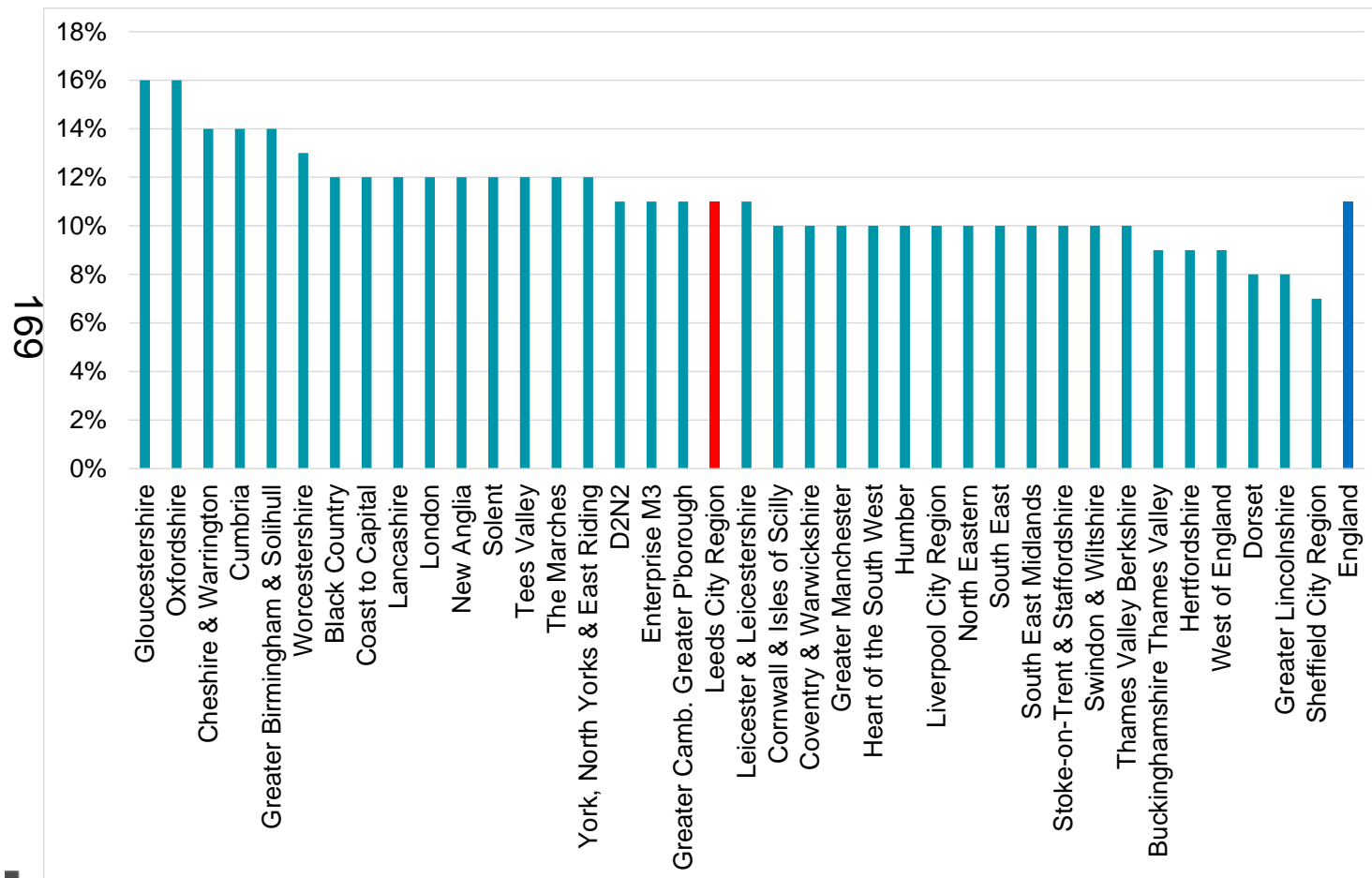
# A quarter of employers offer work experience placements to pupils in local schools

Figure: Proportion of employers offering work experience placement for school pupils



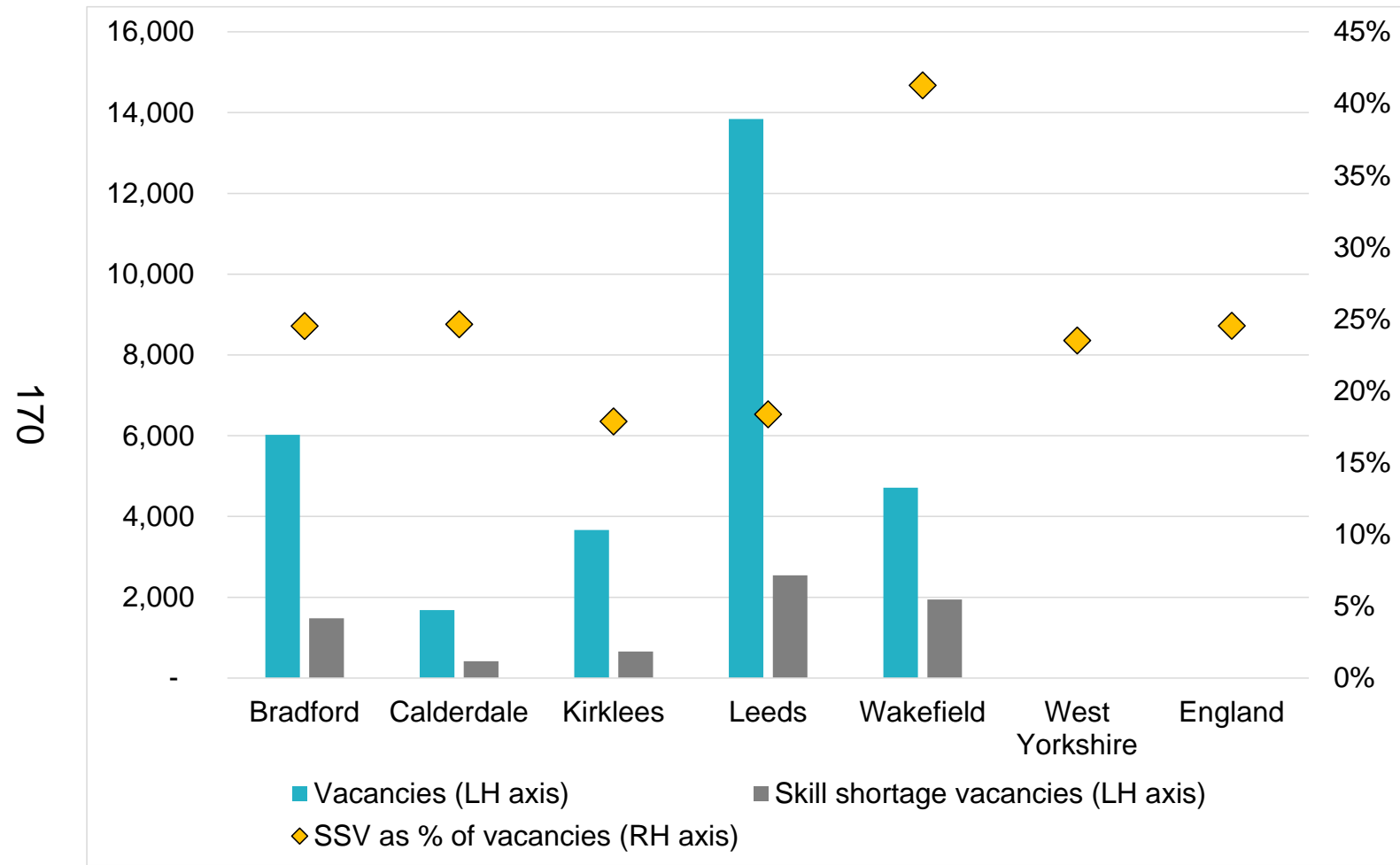
# 11% of employers offer work inspiration activities to local educational institutions

**Figure: % employers who have engaged with educational institutions to offer 'work inspiration' activities in last year**



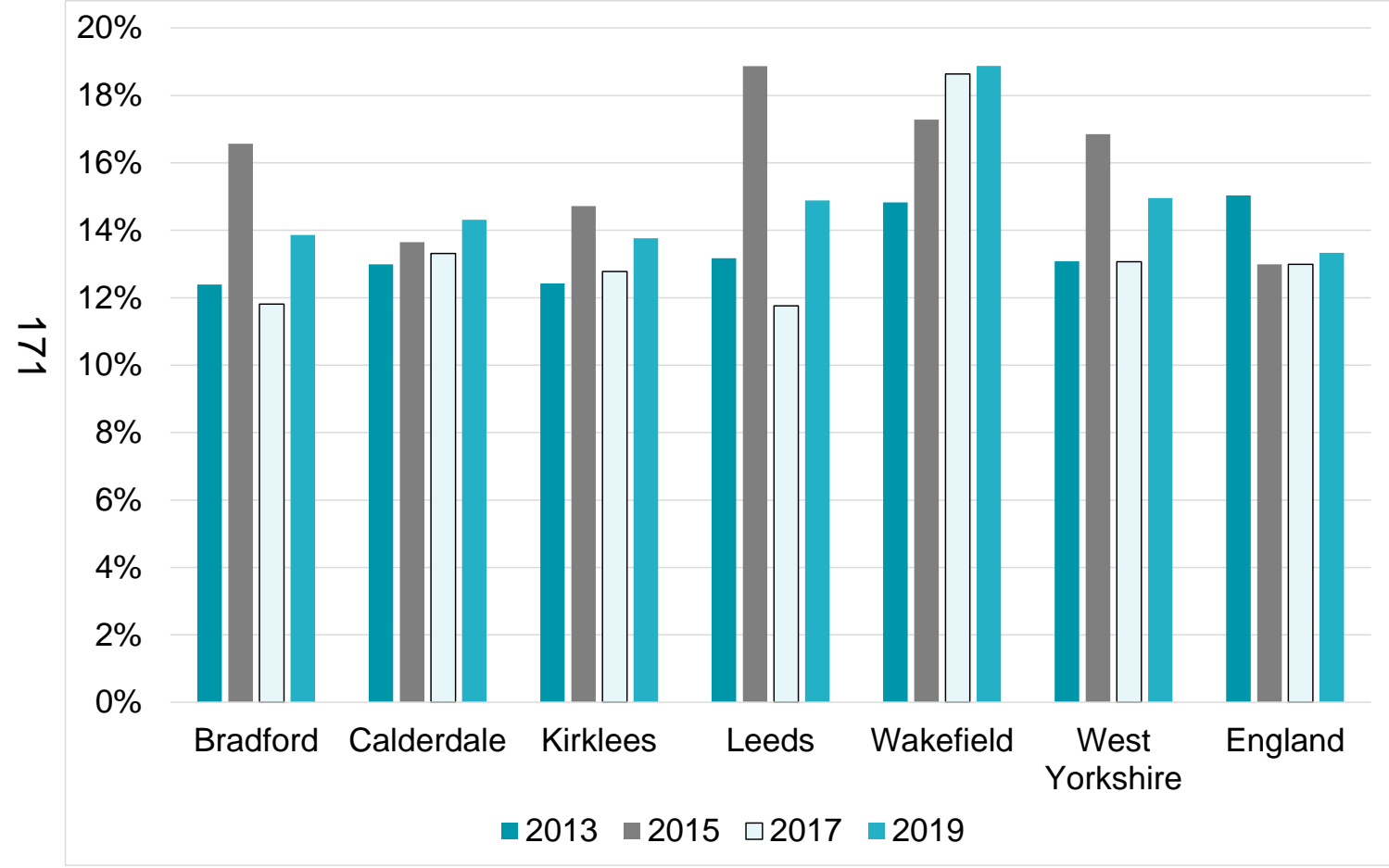
# Around a quarter of West Yorkshire vacancies are skill shortage vacancies

Figure: Summary of vacancy situation by local authority (vacancy base)



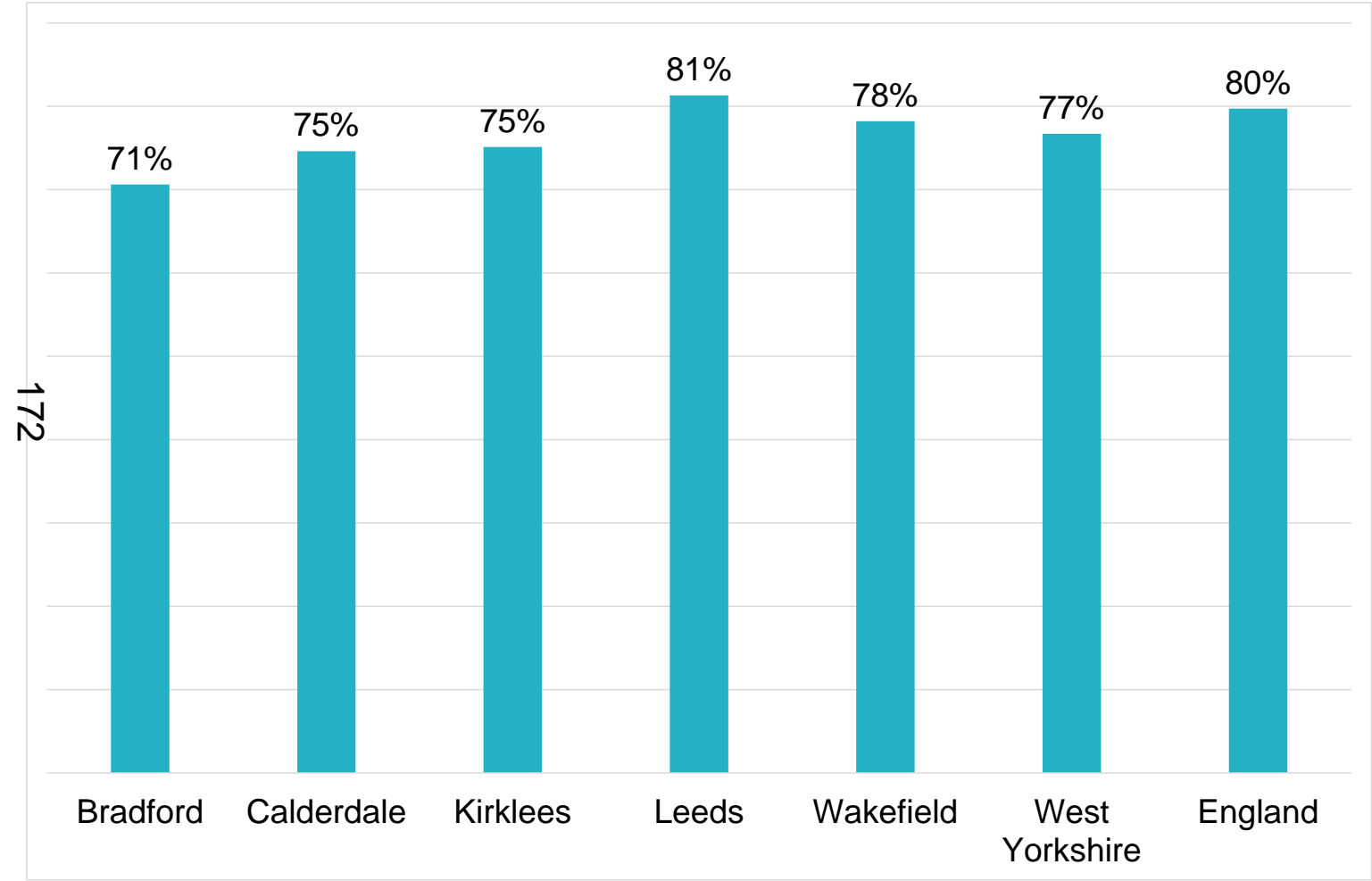
# Skills gaps have been consistently high in Wakefield

Figure: Proportion of employers who have existing staff that are not fully proficient



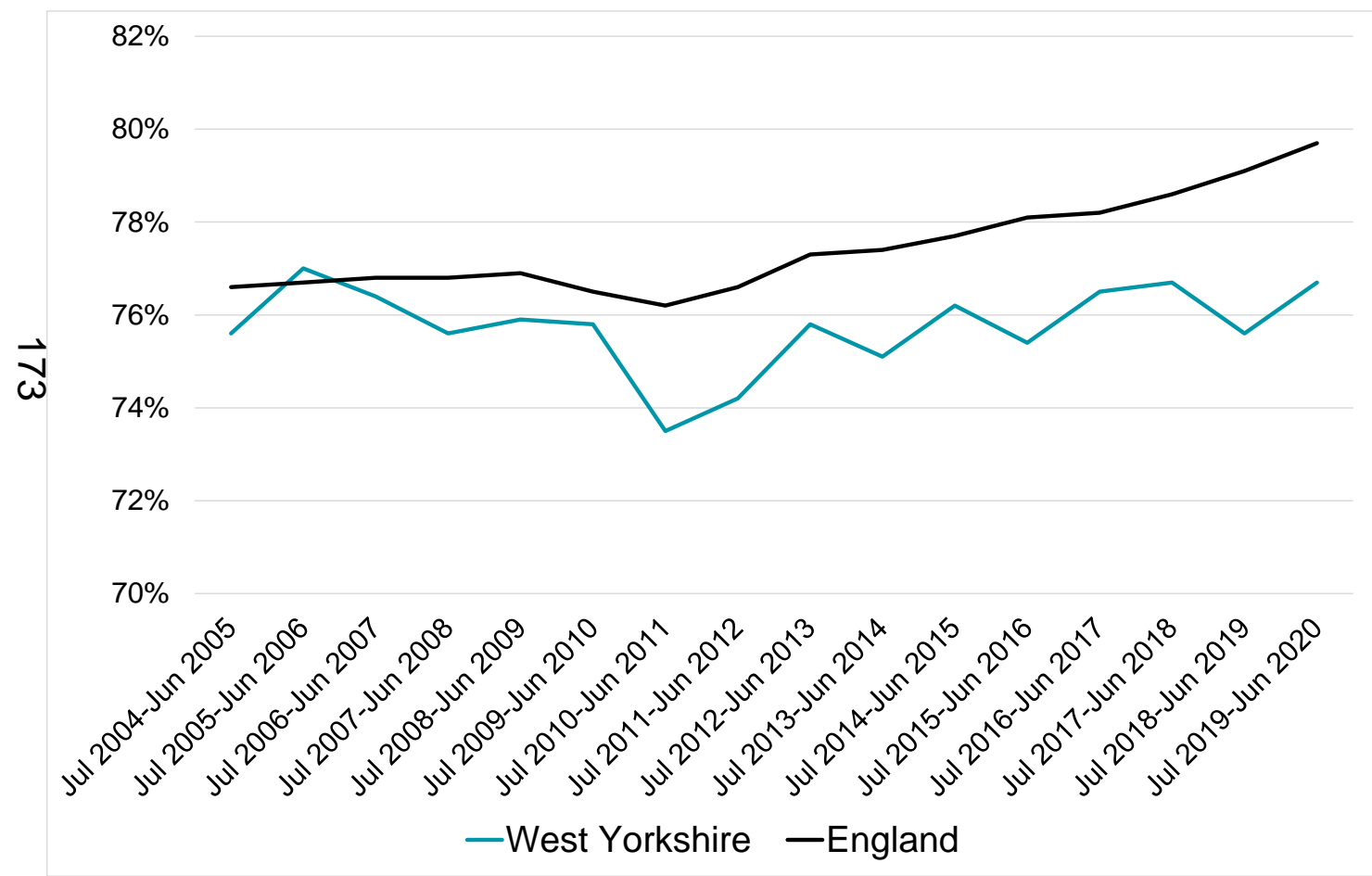
# Bradford's economic activity rate is almost 10 points below the national average

Figure: Economic activity rate - aged 16-64 by local authority



# West Yorkshire's economic activity rate has diverged from the national rate over time

Figure: Economic activity rate - aged 16-64

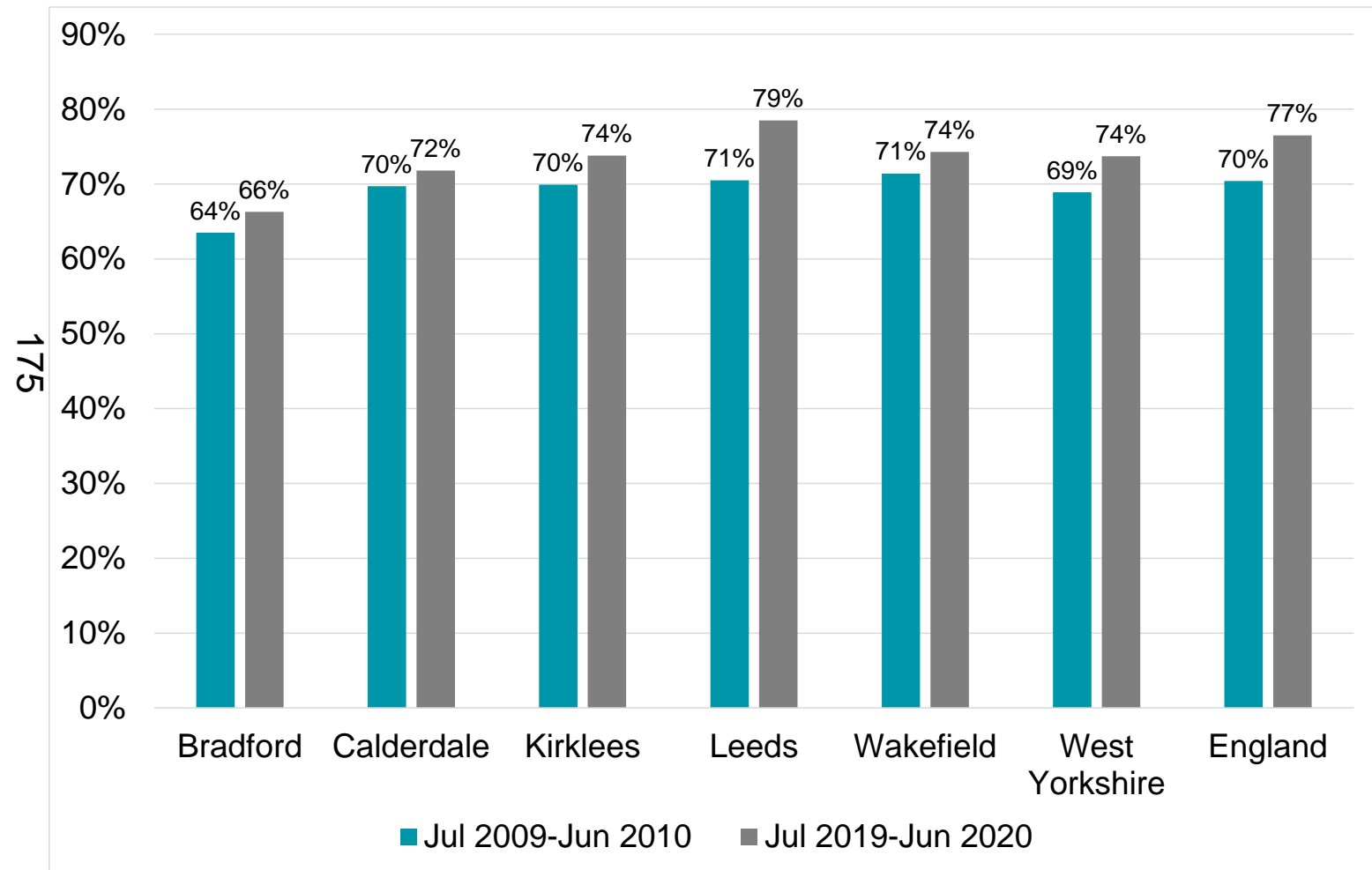


## Goal 4 – Good Work



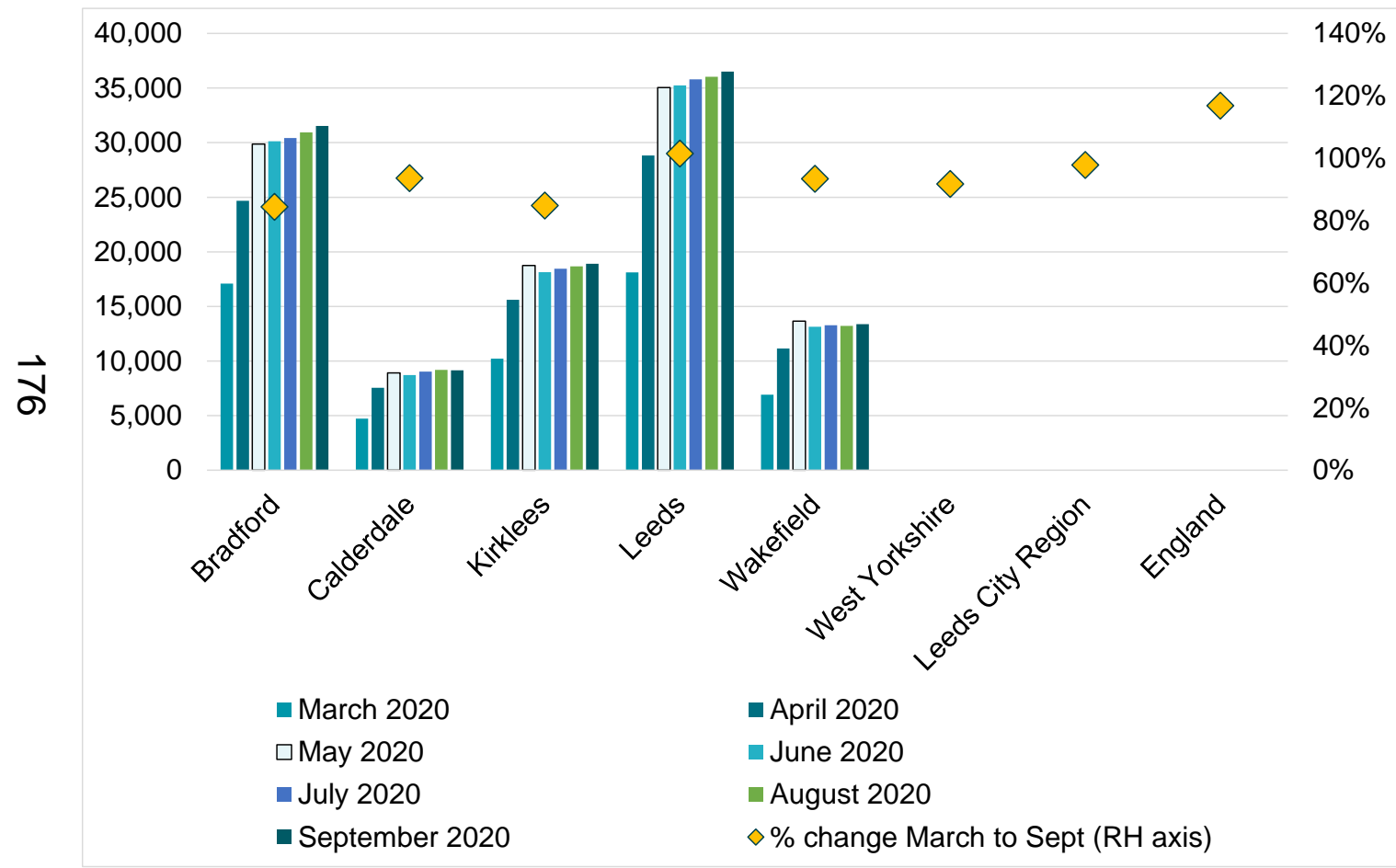
# Employment rate is below national average in all parts of West Yorkshire except Leeds

Figure: Employment rate (% of population aged 16-64)



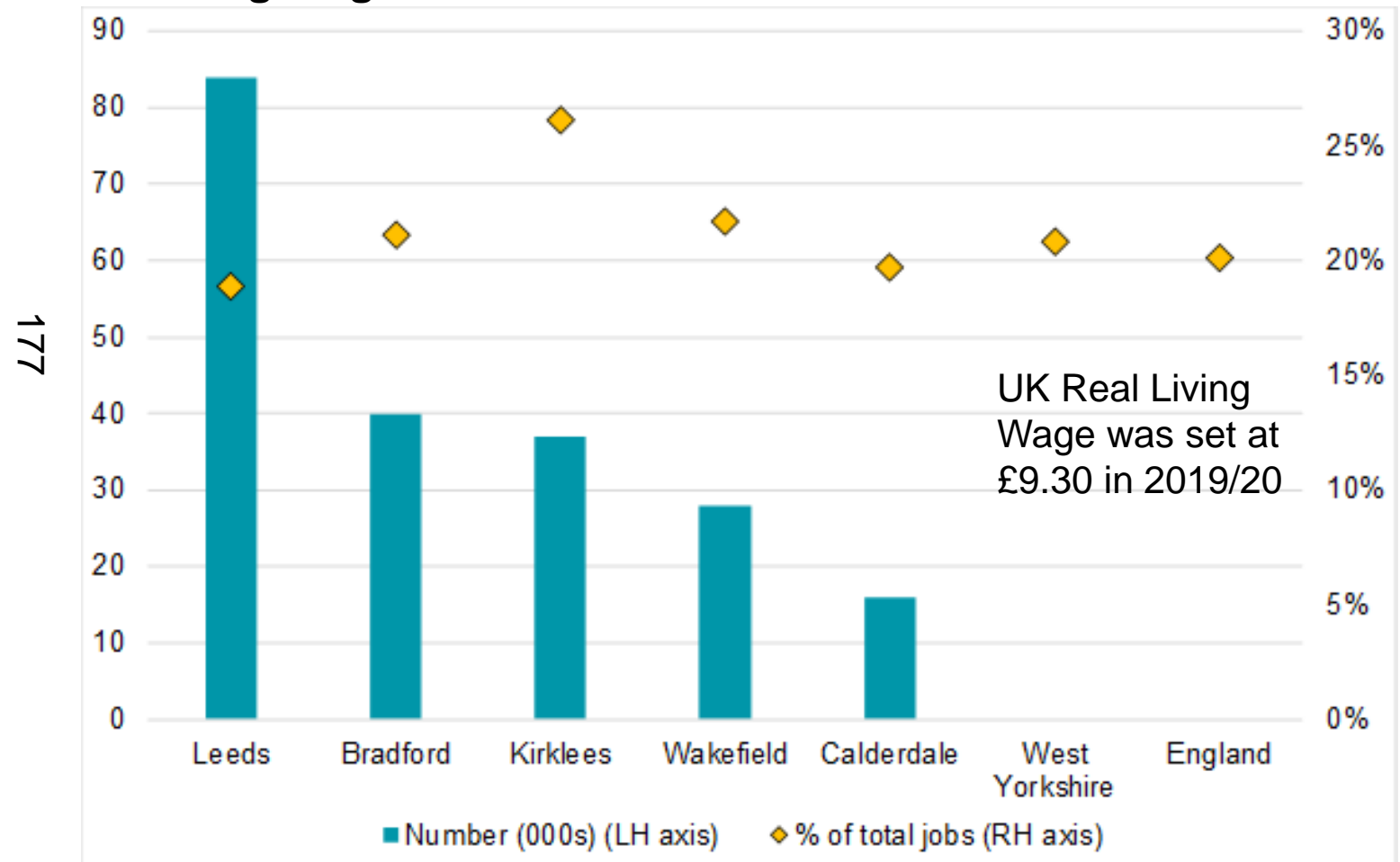
# Count of unemployed claimants increased by 92% in West Yorks between March and September to a total of 104,500

Figure: Unemployed claimant count



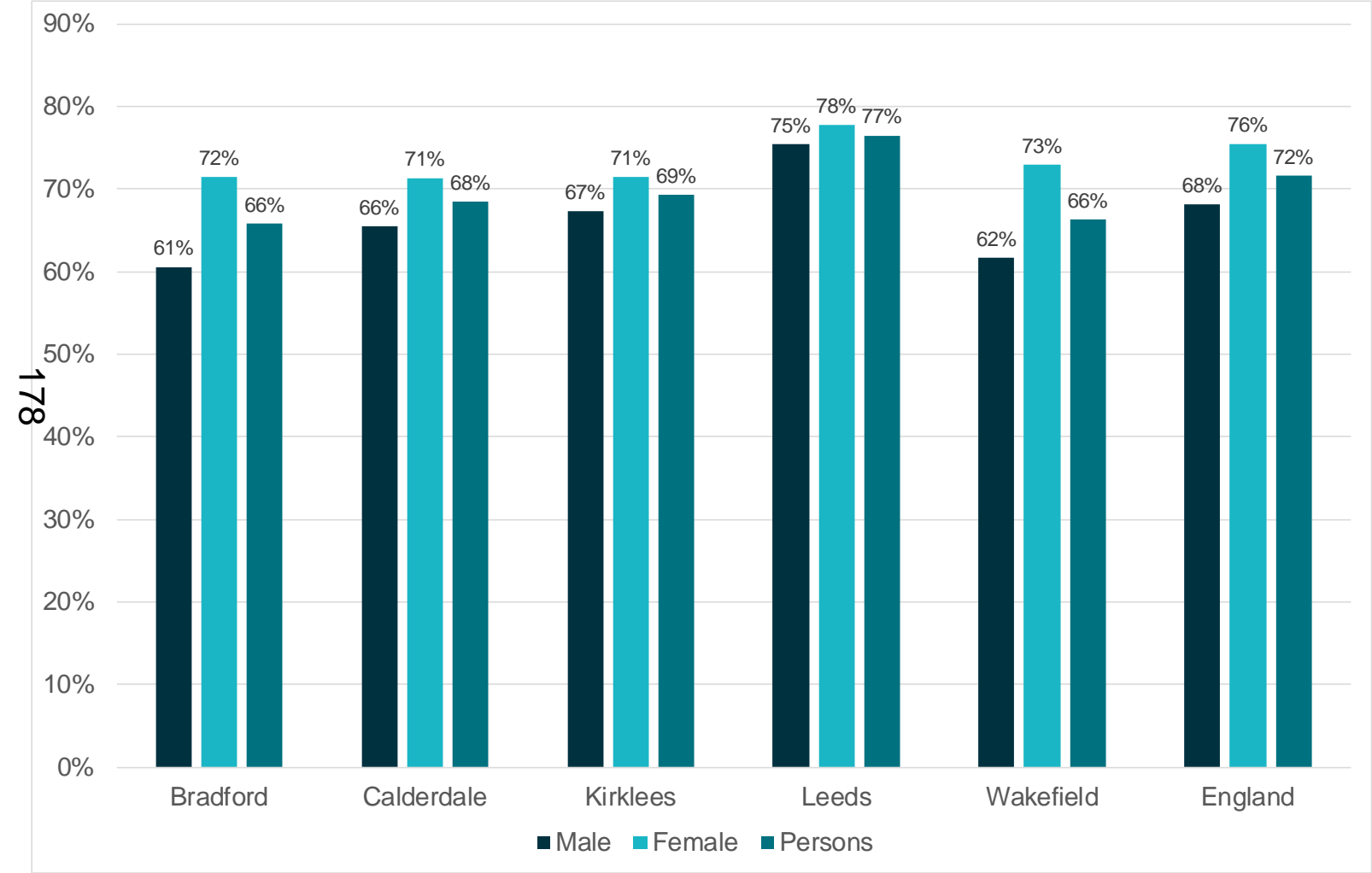
# A fifth of jobs in West Yorkshire pay below the Real Living Wage

Figure: Number and proportion of employee jobs in West Yorkshire paying below the Real Living Wage



# Leeds has a high proportion of people in quality work but rest of West Yorks lags behind national average

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

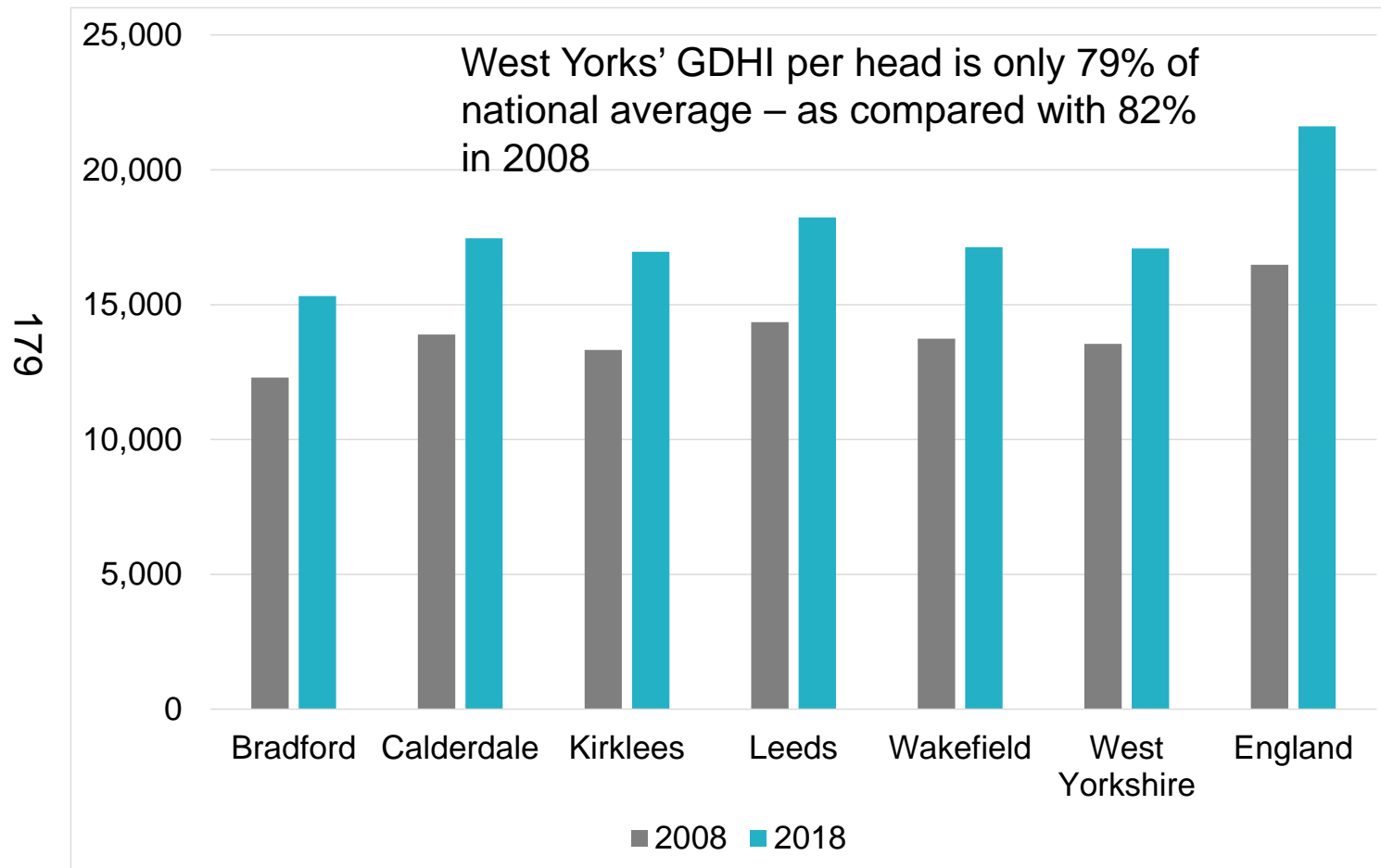


Note: Employees in high quality work have satisfactory hours, are not in low pay and have desired contractual status.

Source: Office for National Statistics, Quality Work publication

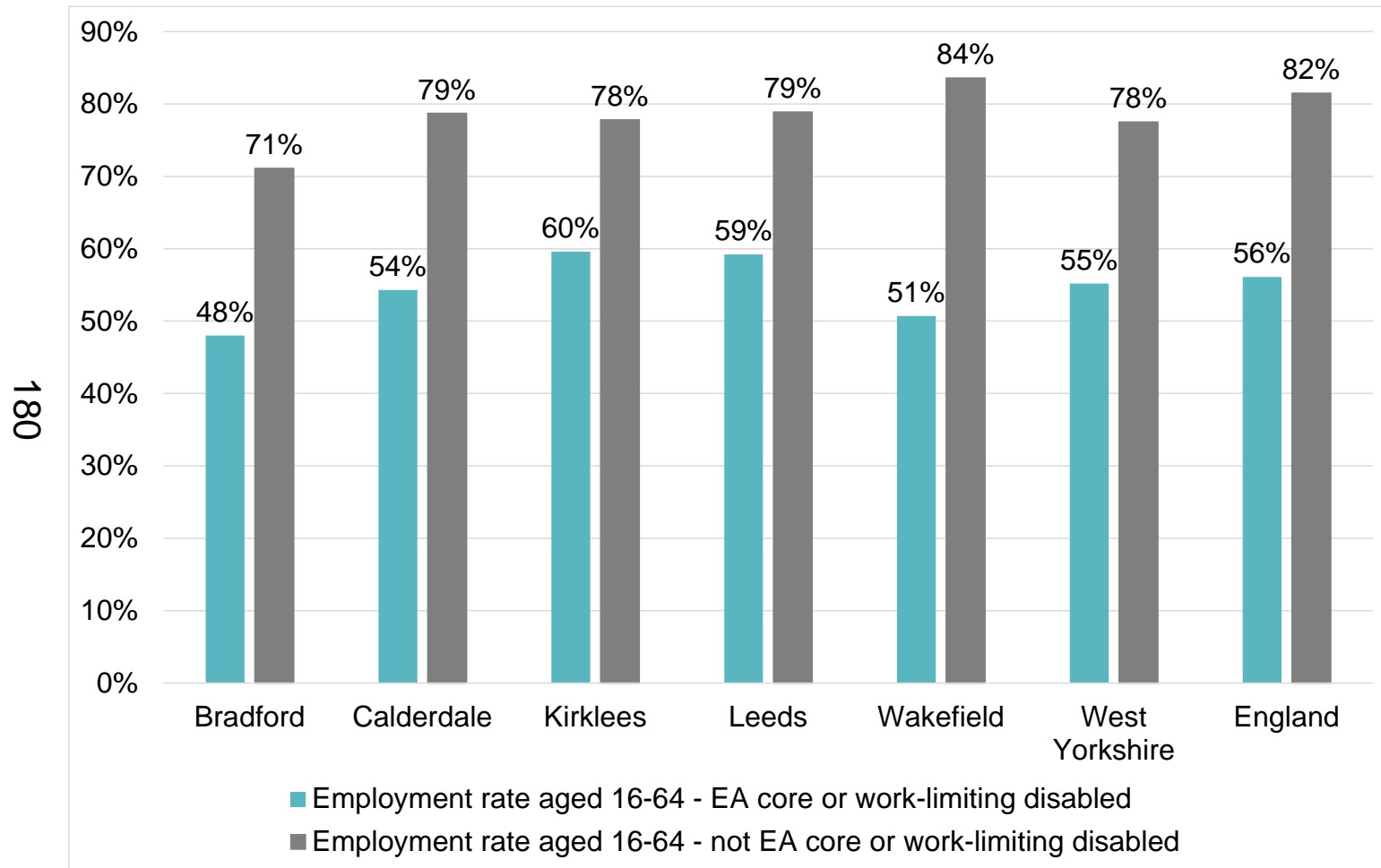
# Income gap between West Yorks and national average has increased over last decade

**Figure: Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) per head**



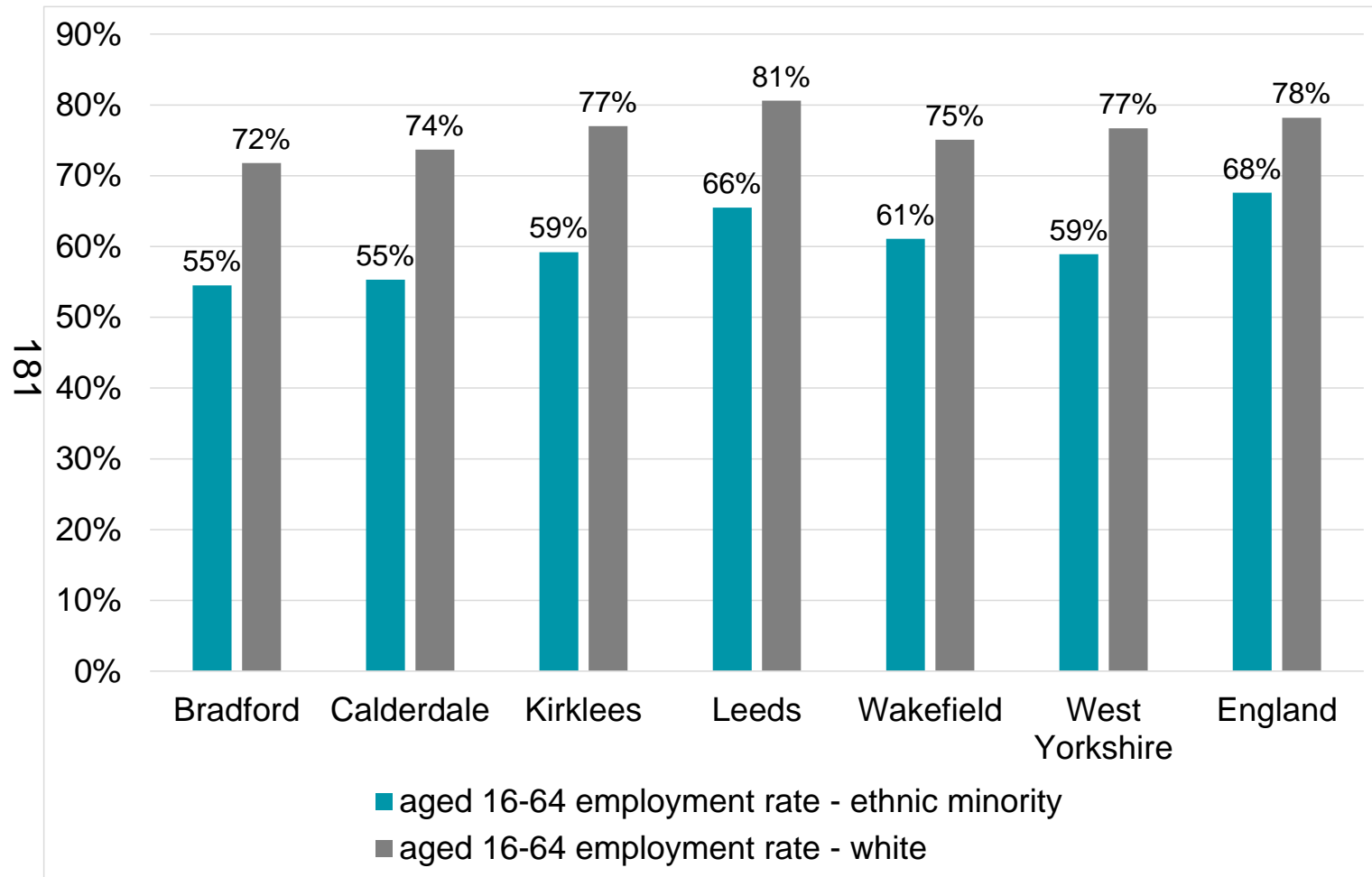
# The disability employment rate gap in West Yorkshire is 22 percentage points and is 33 points in Wakefield

**Figure: Employment rate by disability status and district**



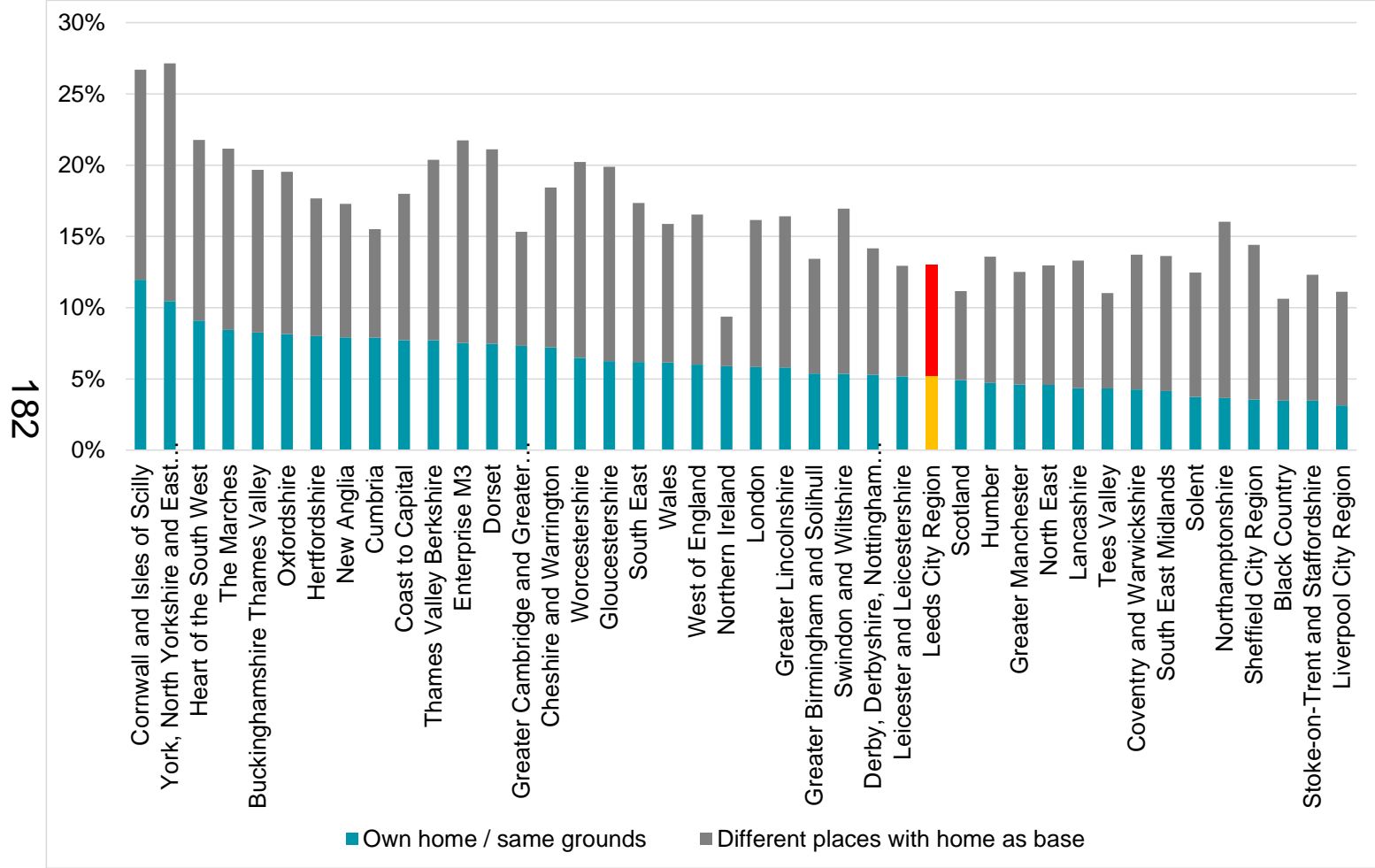
# The employment rate gap for ethnic minorities in West Yorks is 18 points compared with 11 points nationally

Figure: Employment rate by ethnic group and district



# The prevalence of home working is relatively low locally

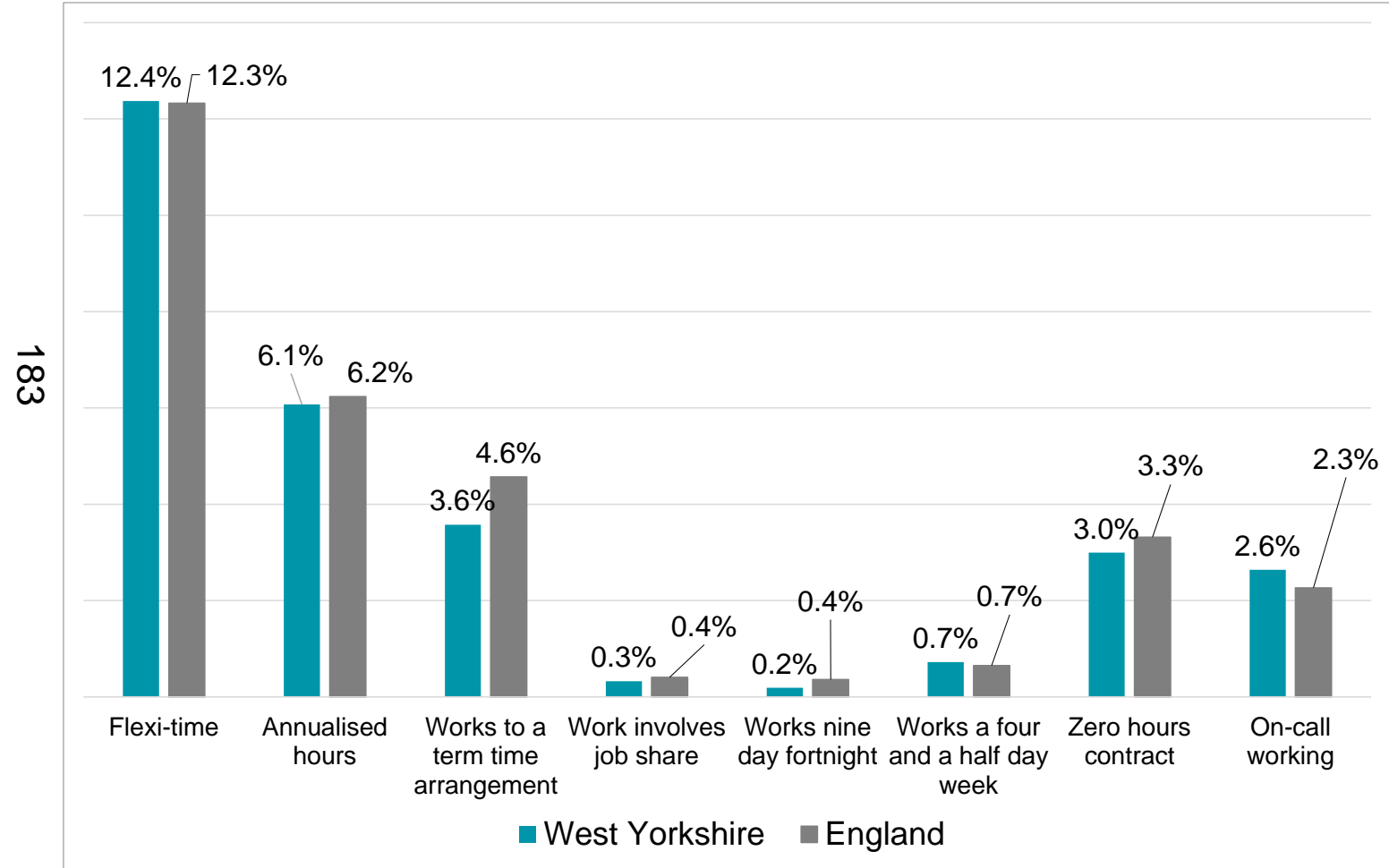
Figure: % of people in employment working from home by LEP area





# Few people have access to flexible working arrangements

Figure: Proportion of people in employment with flexible working arrangements



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# Appendix 2

Indicative Regional Inclusive Growth Programme  
“Early Wins” Sift

# Cross Cutting

- Community Hubs
- Digital Inclusion

Community Hubs - Strategic Investment Fund	Rationale and IG Goals	Outcomes / Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community-based organisations engage with individuals from disadvantaged groups, promoting inclusion and working to develop skills to access labour market opportunities</b></li> <li>• <b>Capital projects would serve to develop and maintain community hubs to host and co-ordinate such activities</b></li> <li>• <b>Capital resources would support the purchase and improvement of physical assets and equipment</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 59% of Locality members are reporting that over a quarter of their income is at risk due to coronavirus. For organisations who earn more than 50% of their income through trading, this increases to 75% reporting at least a quarter of income.</li> <li>• Revenue funding streams are therefore needed for service delivery instead of being diverted to maintaining and protecting community assets.</li> <li>• Community hubs provide opportunities through volunteering and acting as community anchors</li> <li>• Need therefore to invest in existing and new assets and actively involve communities and empower third sector organisations serving them to develop innovative services and support.</li> <li>• Addresses all IG Goals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased community access to more services, skills, education and training facilities for disadvantaged communities</li> <li>• Increased social capital</li> <li>• Community anchors acting as focal points within communities</li> <li>• Increased connections between those furthest from the labour market, and the local employment opportunities.</li> <li>• Hubs enabled to deliver social value outcomes, verifiable via robust evaluation to establish intervention level impacts (via boosters of Community Life Survey), eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Health and wellbeing</li> <li>○ Satisfaction with local area and sense of belonging</li> <li>○ Social action</li> <li>○ Community cohesion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Digital Inclusion	Rationale and IG Goals	Outcomes / Impact
<p><b>Resources to support scale up of learning from 100% Digital Leeds model across WY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping of digital access and skills support</li> <li>• Capacity building for community-based organisations</li> <li>• Digital champions training for staff and volunteers in these organisations</li> <li>• Support to enable unemployed/ economically inactive residents to access on-line resource/ learning portals, to develop digital skills.</li> <li>• Digital Inclusion Grants.</li> <li>• Promotion of digital skills and its benefits.</li> </ul>	<p>Address significant levels of digital exclusion in WY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16% of YH population (879,000) is digitally excluded, ie they do not possess the full range of Foundation skills (the skills needed to start using the internet)</li> <li>• 96% of properties in WY are able to connect to Superfast Broadband (SFBB), slightly above the national average. However, access to SFBB falls to 69% in the 20% most deprived areas.</li> <li>• Also, in-sector exclusion, eg almost a third of charities still remain in the lowest digital capability category, almost double that of SMEs who themselves are late-adopters.</li> <li>• Addresses IG goals of Relevant and Transferable Skills and Connectivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved access to digital facilities and online services.</li> <li>• Improved digital skills amongst the most deprived residents and VCSE sector.</li> <li>• Reduced barriers to inclusion and accessing employment opportunities.</li> </ul>

# Good Work

- Good Work Standard
- VCSE Sector support, including:
  - Co-ordination and advocacy
  - Capacity Building
  - Sector support, including Social Enterprise Start-ups

Good Work Standard	Rationale and IG Goals	Outcomes / Impact
<p>Promotion and delivery of a regional Standard for employers (business, third and public sector anchors) to sign up to including commitments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair Pay</li> <li>• Fair Contracts</li> <li>• Management &amp; Leadership</li> <li>• Workforce Representation</li> <li>• Physical and Mental activity and Wellbeing</li> <li>• Work-life balance</li> <li>• Skills &amp; development</li> <li>• In-work progression</li> <li>• Equality, diversity &amp; inclusion (including recruitment)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 271,000 WY employees (29% of the total) are not in good quality work (ONS definition based on Taylor Review)</li> <li>• Distribution, quality and accessibility of employment differs across the region – need to get all employers to offer only good work.</li> <li>• Low productivity in LCR and evidence of diversity and fair pay stimulating productivity and innovation</li> <li>• Employment and pay gaps and discrimination for disadvantaged groups</li> <li>• Skills mismatch - need to widen the labour market pool</li> <li>• Delivers Good Work IG Goal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced employment gap for disadvantaged groups / increased workforce diversity and social mobility</li> <li>• Increased proportion of workforce paid living wage</li> <li>• Reduced levels of in-work benefits</li> <li>• Increased workforce skills development and skills utilisation</li> <li>• Reduced skills shortages/gaps</li> <li>• Reductions in staff turnover</li> <li>• Reduced absenteeism</li> <li>• Increased in-work progression.</li> </ul>



Regional VCSE Sector - Co-ordination and Advocacy	Rationale and IG Goals	Outcomes / Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate collaboration amongst third sector organisations</li> <li>• Develop impact assessment &amp; shared learning &amp; innovation</li> <li>• Map solutions that work, under what circumstances to provide targeted support</li> <li>• Improve collaborative working at a Leeds City Region scale</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There currently is however no strong, unified regional voice/advocacy for the diverse and fragmented range of third sector organisations</li> <li>• The sector is frequently reliant on short-term funding, often competing against each other, and limited in enterprise and strategic skills &amp; a co-ordinated voice - would enable them to fully capitalise on their strengths and opportunities.</li> <li>• Gap in WY in terms of regional representation vs other regions, sharing learning and scaling up approaches to achieve positive outcomes for disadvantaged group across the City Region.</li> <li>• Underpins all 4 IG Goals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced collaboration between third sector organisations and social enterprises – leading to sharing of learning and best practice and co-ordinated delivery</li> <li>• Strong, unified regional voice/representation for third sector organisations</li> <li>• Strategic policy alignment with public and private sectors</li> </ul>

Regional VCSE Sector - Capacity Building	Rationale and IG Goals	Outcomes / Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two-way mentoring with businesses and public sector organisations to provide commercial and management skills/expertise and drive Social Value</li> <li>• Bespoke package, including action based learning for cohorts running and governing Social Enterprises focussed on eg financial and risk management, implementing digital projects, and succession planning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IG Panel has concluded that a key role of the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector should be to ensure the most excluded are enabled to benefit from the recovery</li> <li>• However the sector has capacity challenges, eg a survey by Skills Platform in 2017 found that, while almost three-quarters of charities recognised the potential for digital transformation, only a third believed they had the capacity to deliver it. Without this capability the sector will be unable to access new opportunities (eg online service delivery and volunteering)</li> <li>• Addresses IG Goal of Skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More sustainable, productive and innovative third sector</li> <li>• Increased social capital/ value added eg - volunteering /CSR opportunities</li> <li>• More disadvantaged individuals and communities ultimately supported</li> </ul>

Regional VCSE Sector – Business Support*	Rationale and IG Goals	Outcomes / Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A support programme for:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creating Social Enterprise spin outs from Vol Comm organisations</li> <li>2. Enabling self employment, including social enterprise start ups, in our most disadvantaged communities</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Delivered including through specialist community-based providers and hubs - e.g. enterprise coaching and specialist advice, with links to procurement/commissioning opportunities &amp; partnership working</li> <li>• Building on previously successful approaches, eg SRB, LEGI, EU etc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A large proportion of our smaller VCSE organisations is identified as ‘at risk’ following the pandemic and requires support and capacity.</li> <li>• The creation of social enterprise spin outs from existing Vol Comm organisations has the potential to drive innovation, resilience and social and economic impact.</li> <li>• In the 10% most deprived areas, people are almost 50% less likely to be self- employed.</li> <li>• Self-employment increasingly viewed as a viable option, however, those in disadvantaged areas are unlikely to access the mainstream support available - or do not seek support to sustain businesses once started through programmes such as New Enterprise Allowance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A more resilient, entrepreneurial and sustainable third sector</li> <li>• Empowered and motivated disadvantaged groups to contribute to growth/local wealth</li> <li>• Increased aspiration and social mobility</li> <li>• Increased access to sustainable employment</li> <li>• Boost to local economies</li> <li>• Diversification of local business base</li> <li>• Local supply chain opportunities</li> <li>• Increased employment in deprived communities</li> <li>• Increased Social Value</li> <li>• Learning from ABCD pilot</li> </ul>

\*The above proposals would be complementary to the proposals contained in the Economic Recovery Plan ambitions around Entrepreneurship discussed elsewhere on the agenda.

# Wellbeing

## Social Prescribing

Social prescribing	Rationale and IG Goals	Outcomes / Impact
<p><b>Referral by GPs to non-clinical services, generally run by VCSE sector</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Link worker broker to relevant providers/services</b></li> <li>• <b>Integration of local community and primary care services with targeted outreach</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60-70% of benefit claimants have a health issue which prevents them from working</li> <li>• Poor mental health more prevalent in WY than nationally</li> <li>• Local pilots in Calderdale and York have proven successful, so would build on best practice</li> <li>• Addresses Wellbeing IG Goal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Reduction in GP appointments</li> <li>• Reduced clinical prescribing</li> <li>• Improved access to support services</li> <li>• Reduction in days lost to sickness</li> <li>• Reduction in health inequalities</li> <li>• Increased volunteering</li> <li>• Reduced spend on benefits</li> </ul>

# Relevant and transferable Skills

- Boosted Inclusive Skills and Employment provision

Inclusive Skills and Employment provision	Rationale and IG Goals	Outcomes / Impact
<p><b>Examples:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach and engagement with disadvantaged groups</li> <li>• Employer engagement in schools</li> <li>• Tracking the destinations of pupils, particularly those at risk of becoming NEET</li> <li>• Targeted support for schools to raise aspirations eg SEND pupils careers advice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Y&amp;H, our disabled people are three times as likely to have no formal qualifications as non-disabled people, and far less likely to be in employment</li> <li>• Disadvantaged pupils are less likely to enter sustainable employment /training/ HE than other pupils across all West Yorkshire districts.</li> <li>• Businesses have an important role to play in partnering with schools and colleges to raise ambition and achievement and improve performance.</li> <li>• Addresses IG Goal of Relevant and Transferable Skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased aspirations/ motivation</li> <li>• Increased participation</li> <li>• Increased understanding of skills needs and career pathways</li> <li>• Increased job-readiness</li> <li>• Increased access to opportunities</li> <li>• Increased understanding of benefits and how to support diversity for employers</li> <li>• Improved careers destinations of SEND young people</li> <li>• Reduction in NEETs</li> </ul>

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

**Date:** 24 February 2021

**Subject:** **LEP Budgets and Funding**

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**Director:** Angela Taylor, Director, Corporate Services

**Author(s):** Angela Taylor, Director, Corporate Services

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

- 1.1 To provide the LEP Board with an update on funding secured by the LEP and the position going forward.

## **2. Information**

- 2.1 The revenue budgets for 2021/22 and indicative capital budget were approved by the Combined Authority on 4 February 2021. The budget approved is a consolidated one that includes funding secured by the LEP.
- 2.2 The Combined Authority works alongside the LEP in delivering its aims, with the LEP providing strong and strategic links to business across the region. The LEP was hugely successful in securing funding through the Growth Deal – the largest Growth Deal in the country - that has seen investments in new colleges, flood alleviation works, housing and regeneration and business support. At the time of writing it is understood that there is no similar successor fund and details of access to funds announced in the budget such as the Levelling up Fund are awaited. The lack of any such successor fund for LEPs continues to be brought to the attention of government officials and is a serious concern for LEPs in their support of the regional economic recovery. Many of the previous funding programmes covering that functional economic area cease in 2021 and a summary is attached at **Appendix 1** which shows the project, funding, end date and funding body.
- 2.3 The Combined Authority collectively continues to be successful in securing funds, building on the work considered / proposed by the LEP Board. However, the funding now being received is generally secured by the Combined Authority and is then spent on shared priorities that are informed by the views of the LEP.
- 2.4 MHCLG has now confirmed revenue funding for 2021/22, which is made up of £500k core funding (which is provided to all LEPs as a standard amount) as

well as £520k to support the growth hub. These sums have not increased for a number of years and there is no guarantee that this funding will continue to be paid in future years.

- 2.5 As the direct LEP funding is reducing, this presents a number of challenges, leaving some programmes incomplete. This includes the Enterprise Zone programme, where a number of sites have funding to be developed out but a number still remain. Government has recently written to LEP Chairs to explain that future FE skills capital funding will be the subject of a bidding process by colleges (letter attached as **Appendix 2**). This is extremely disappointing given the success of the LEP over the period of the Growth Deal in enabling a number of key projects in the region including Leeds City College.
- 2.6 On a positive note, many of the LEP priorities are carrying on through the Combined Authority and the funding secured in the devolution deal will ensure work on Economic Recovery Plans and Adult Education and Skills for example continue to be progressed. Early use of the first year of gainshare has been approved to progress two projects in support of the priorities emerging from the Economic Recovery Plan but there is no commitment from government to fund the identified programme.
- 2.7 The LEP Board is asked to consider the position and identify any actions it wishes to take.

### **3 Inclusive Growth implications**

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

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

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 As set out in the report.

### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

### **7. Staffing Implications**

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

### **8. External Consultees**

- 8.1 None.

**9. Recommendations**

9.1 That the LEP Board note the funding position and consider any actions.

**10. Background Documents**

10.1 None.

**11. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – LEP funding

Appendix 2 – FE skills funding letter.

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## APPENDIX 1

Name of Grant/ Funding	Capital/ Revenue	Total Amount Awarded	2020/21 Awarded	Schedule of Payment	Ending 2021	Sponsoring Body
		£	£			
Growth Deal 2020/21	LEP Capital	516,350,000	100,338,062	Final instalment	Y	MHCLG
Getting Building Fund 2020/21	LEP Capital	52,600,000	26,300,000	1st instalment of 2.		MHCLG
Getting Building Fund - Revenue	LEP Revenue		100,000	One-off	Y	
LEP Core grant	LEP Revenue		500,000	Annual award		MHCLG
Business Growth Service 2020/21 (Growth Hub)	LEP Revenue		512,500	Annual award		MHCLG
Business Growth Service 2020/21 (Growth Hub) supplementary	LEP Revenue		267,500	One-off	Y	MHCLG
ERDF uplifting Kickstart	LEP Revenue		1,292,925	One-off	Y	MHCLG
Skills Advisory Panel (to LEP)	LEP Revenue		75,000	One-off	Y	DfE
Peer to Peer Network Programme	LEP Revenue		90,000	One-off	Y	BEIS
Enterprise Adviser Network	LEP Revenue	686,442	343,221	Academic Qtrly claim - Ends August 2021	Y	Careers & Enterprise Company
<b><u>EU Funding (Business Support)</u></b>						
Employment Hub ESF	LEP Revenue	9,000,000	3,197,282	Quarterly claim - Ends December 2021	Y	ESF DWP
Re(boot) ESF	LEP Revenue	2,745,747	941,762	Quarterly claim - Ends December 2021	Y	ESF DWP
Investment Readiness	LEP Revenue	714,500	300,000	Quarterly claim - Ends December 2021	Y	ERDF MHCLG
Re-Biz (Was REF2)	LEP Revenue	2,822,718	829,871	Quarterly claim - Ends March 2021	Y	ERDF MHCLG
Strategic Business Growth	LEP Revenue	3,400,000	318,598	Quarterly claim - January 2023 (extended)		ERDF MHCLG
Access Innovation 2.0 (was Connecting Innovation)	LEP Revenue	2,028,886	364,968	Quarterly claim - Ends March 2023		ERDF MHCLG
ESF Skills for Growth	LEP Revenue	1,929,854	350,463	Quarterly claim - Ends August 2023		ESF DWP
<b><u>EU Funding (S+P and Comms)</u></b>						
ELENA Energy Accelerator	LEP Capital	3,513,847 Euro	1,230,546	Ends March 2021	Y	EU Investment Bank
Other contributions from LEP partners	LEP Revenue		728,000			
		Total	138,080,698			

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**Gillian Keegan MP**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus](http://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus)

By email:

21 January 2021

Dear Chair,

My best wishes to you for the New Year.

You will be aware that today marks the publication of our White Paper *Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth*. This White Paper is focused on enabling everyone to get the high-quality skills employers need in a way that suits them. The reforms set out will transform technical education, boost UK productivity, build back better from the Coronavirus pandemic, and create a more prosperous country for all, wherever they live. This is an exciting moment for technical education and training and an opportunity to really change the climate for skills. We look forward to ongoing engagement with you and your team to deliver on this opportunity.

In addition, you will be aware that the Government committed in the Spring 2020 Budget to invest £1.5 billion of capital funding over five years to refurbish FE colleges and designated institutions.

As you will recall I wrote to you in July regarding the Prime Minister's announcement that my department would allocate an initial £200m of capital to FE colleges and designated institutions in England. This funding has enabled FE colleges and designated institutions to undertake immediate remedial work in this financial year to upgrade the condition of their buildings and estates.

I am pleased to announce today the next phase of FE capital investment available to FE colleges and designated institutions, to enable them to upgrade the condition of their estate and to maximise their potential in delivering high quality skills provision for the benefit of learners and employers. The funding we are announcing today through the FE Capital Transformation Fund, which will be available from 2021-22, will be awarded to FE colleges and designated institutions as a result of a competitive bidding process. Full details about the programme are set out at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-education-capital-transformation-fund>, including the guidance to FE colleges and designated institutions on the bidding process.

The direct delivery of funding by the department to FE colleges and designated institutions will ensure that funding is targeted at FE colleges and designated institutions which have the greatest condition need across England. This is part of

the wider package of capital investment we are making designed to transform technical and vocational education and training across England. This includes for example, capital support for the introduction of new T Levels and establishing a network of Institutes of Technology specialising in delivering high-quality higher technical education and training in STEM subjects.

I recognise that over the past five years, FE colleges and designated institutions have been greatly improved by the investment that Local Enterprise Partnerships have made through the Local Growth Fund. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your work and the way in which you have collaborated with FE colleges and designated institutions.

FE colleges and designated institutions, which bid for funding, will be required to set out how their project proposals align with local skills analyses and action plans, including, where relevant, those of Skills Advisory Panels, which will assist in the process of aligning FE colleges and designated institutions' proposals with local skills needs. I know that you will continue to work closely with FE colleges and designated institutions as key local strategic partners.

**Copy:** Chief Executive

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gillian Keegan', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Gillian Keegan MP**  
**Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills**



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

**Date:** 24 February 2021

**Subject:** **Governance Report**

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

**Author(s):** Angie Shearon, Governance Services Manager

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

- 1.1 To provide LEP Board members with proposals to review the Chair's final year of tenure as per the agreement in February 2020, following the outcome of the Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships review.
- 1.2 To ask LEP Board members to approve the terms of the review.
- 1.3 To consider a recommendation to appoint a non-voting advisory representative of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) for the Yorkshire & Humber to the Employment and Skills Panel and to recommend such appointment to the Combined Authority.

## **2. Information**

### **LEP Chair Review**

- 2.1 The Government's 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships' review required the LEP to make a number of changes to its operating procedures. The review resulted in the implementation of actions including new recruits to the LEP Board and panels, and a change to the LEP's geography.
- 2.2 In February 2020 it was agreed that, given the exceptional circumstances of the Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships review and ongoing negotiations to agree a devolution deal for West Yorkshire, the current LEP Chair's tenure would be extended for up to two years to the Annual Meeting in 2022. At the end of this two-year period, the maximum nine-year term of the Chair will have been reached and a new LEP Chair will be appointed.
- 2.3 The second year of the extended term is subject to a light-touch review undertaken during 2020/21 in the context of the future role of LEPs and future role profile of the next LEP Chair. The review will be set against terms of reference and will advise both on the final year of the current Chair's

tenure and future requirements for the new LEP Chair. The outcome of the review will be considered at the LEP Board in April.

### **Terms of the Review**

- 2.4 It is proposed that the following issues be considered as part of the review:

**The Future role of LEPs and future LEP Chair:** The future funding, both capacity and programme, for LEPs remains uncertain. Further detail on the Levelling Up / UK Shared Prosperity Funds are likely to be provided at the March Budget and may offer some clarity on the future for LEPs. It is also expected that the Devolution White Paper will provide further information on the future of LEPs, however the publication date for this paper is unknown. The successor LEP Chair's role profile will be dependent upon a clear understanding of the future role of LEPs.

**West Yorkshire devolution deal:** The move to becoming a Mayoral Combined Authority and the new powers and funding this brings will lead to a period of change and disruption within the Combined Authority / the LEP. This will have a significant impact on the role of the LEP Chair as new ways of working are implemented.

**Covid-19 pandemic:** The ongoing health and economic risks from Covid-19 will continue to impact on our region over the coming months. This will be a challenging time for many businesses and there will be increasing need to ensure that Government is providing adequate support.

**LEP Performance:** The current performance of the LEP will be reviewed and any major issues with delivery and performance identified.

Conclusions will be drawn on the implications from the above for the focus of the remaining year of the current LEP Chair's tenure.

### **Review Methodology**

- 2.5 The review will incorporate a mix of interviews and desk-based research. It is expected that interviews will be undertaken with the LEP Chair, West Yorkshire Leaders, Chief Executives, private sector Panel Chairs, plus Senior Civil Servants.

### **Timescales**

- 2.6 Timescales for the review are as follows:

- **February 2021:** Terms of the review discussed at LEP Board.
- **March 2021:** If terms agreed, desk-based research undertaken followed by interviews.
- **April 2021:** Review outcome considered by the LEP Board.

## **Employment & Skills Panel – advisory representative**

- 2.7 The TUC have extensive knowledge and insight into business needs around skills and employment, together with years of experience supporting employees to train and re-skill. They have contributed to priority areas of the work of both the Combined Authority and LEP in the past 18 months, most notably the Future Ready Skills Commission and the Economic Recovery Board. It is particularly important that the CA and LEP acquire this insight and support as the region enters a period of economic recovery.
- 2.8 Due to the TUC's role and scale of engagement in the employment and skills arena, it is recognised that it would be advantageous to invite a non-voting advisory representative of the TUC to contribute to the work of the Employment and Skills Panel providing that vital link and insight.
- 2.9 Appointments to advisory panels are required to be approved by the Combined Authority. The LEP Board are therefore asked to consider recommending such an appointment to the next ordinary meeting of the Combined Authority.

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

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

## **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

## **7. Staffing Implications**

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

## **8. External Consultees**

- 8.1 None arising directly from this report.

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 The LEP Board is asked to:
  - 9.1.1 Agree the terms of the LEP Chair review outlined in paragraph 2.4 above and give approval for the work to begin.

- 9.1.2 Recommend the appointment of a non-voting advisory representative of the TUC to the Employment and Skills Panel, as detailed in paragraph 2.9 above, for consideration by the Combined Authority at their meeting on 9 March 2021.

## **10. Background Documents**

- 10.1 None.

## **11. Appendices**

- 11.1 None.

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

**Date:** 24 February 2021

**Subject:** **West Yorkshire Connectivity Infrastructure Plan:  
Investing in the future of West Yorkshire**

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**Director:** Alan Reiss, Director Policy, Strategy and Communications

**Author:** Tom Gifford, Policy Manager, Head of Mass Transit

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## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 For the LEP Board to note the publication in January 2021 of the West Yorkshire Connectivity Infrastructure Plan, WY Mass Transit Vision 2040 and associated documents, in order to open a conversation and engagement around the bold and ambitious proposals to create a greener, more inclusive and better connected region.

## **2 Information**

### Background

- 2.1 In 2017, the Combined Authority adopted the West Yorkshire Transport Strategy 2040, setting out our policy framework for improving transport. The transport Connectivity Infrastructure Plan is an extension of this, setting out a delivery plan and long-term pipeline of transport infrastructure improvements to improve connectivity in our region.

### Context

- 2.2 A modern, integrated transport system is essential for an economy to flourish and communities to thrive. West Yorkshire is a significant and growing economy. Yet for it to fulfil its full potential as a major player in the Northern Powerhouse, and to support decarbonisation of the economy, our region needs a transformation in its transport system – to one that is fit for the 21st Century.
- 2.3 This plan sets out a long-term transport infrastructure investment programme for the next 20 years, providing a spatial picture of where improvements are most needed to stimulate inward investment and improve people's quality of life, building on our key growth areas within the region.
- 2.4 Our cities and towns have out-grown our transport system. Our reliance on the car is damaging business, the environment and the health of residents. Our

most disadvantaged communities, who have not benefited from car travel, suffer most from its impact.

- 2.5 Our evidence is clear that continuing the “business as usual” approach to transport will not enable economic opportunities to be fully realised, or effective action to be taken to decarbonise the economy.
- 2.6 The Connectivity Investment Plan moves us away from traditional transport investments and deliberately focusses on a sustainable future. It focuses on addressing three strategic challenges:
- COVID-19 - Recession and recovery
  - Connecting Everyone - Inclusive growth and the productivity gap
  - Climate change - Decarbonising transport
- 2.7 This plan makes the case to Government for longer-term local transport budgets to deliver these improvements, including unlocking the government’s infrastructure fund linked to the West Yorkshire devolution deal. The recent Spending Round confirmed Mayoral Combined Authorities would have access to an intracity transport settlement. It is important that plans are being developed now to make the best case for that funding in preparation for when further details are announced.
- 2.8 By starting now, we can set our region on the right pathway for tackling the climate emergency and support a green recovery from COVID-19.

### Scope

- 2.9 The Plan is an evidence led approach to identifying our connectivity challenges and solutions, consistently applied across the whole geography of West Yorkshire. This work is identifying a set of options for improving transport infrastructure and connectivity to be delivered up to 2040.
- 2.10 The plan covers bus, rail, cycling, walking, mass transit, digital demand responsive transport, other innovative solutions and car, with the intent to enhance economic performance by connecting all of our important places, and in doing so, help deliver inclusive growth by giving particular attention to the connectivity needs for our currently more disadvantaged and peripheral communities.
- 2.11 A series of daughter documents accompany the overarching ‘working draft’ West Yorkshire Connectivity Plan. These provide more in depth analysis and information around each individual mode. Their conclusions are summarised within the West Yorkshire Connectivity Infrastructure Plan:
- Mass Transit 2040 Vision
  - Rail Vision
  - Strategic Bus Network Review

### Inputs to the Plan

2.12 The Connectivity Infrastructure Plan is informed by a range of other research, plans and case making reports:

- 2.12.1 **West Yorkshire District Local Development Plans** - Each West Yorkshire Districts sets out, as part of their statutory land use plans: the spatial vision, scale of new development and strategy for accommodating new housing and employment growth.
- 2.12.2 **West Yorkshire Bus Network Reviews** - a strategic review of the core bus network across West Yorkshire has taken place. This provides a summary of the core bus network by district in 2018, and then in three future years, 2024, 2028 and 2033. The future years consider the types of interventions needed that could create patronage growth.
- 2.12.3 **West Yorkshire Carbon Reduction Emissions Pathways (CERP) study** - This sets out the evidence for five key sectors of the economy including Transport, and identifies options for different CO2 reduction pathways, setting timescales for action and policies that we need to implement to ensure that our target for net zero carbon by 2038 can be met.
- 2.12.4 **West Yorkshire Future Mobility Strategy** This sets out ways to increase travel options through new forms of transport and better integration maximising new technologies – from autonomous cars to e-scooters, digital on-demand buses services, shared transport and integrated apps for accessing services, plus innovative ways of getting the goods into our town and city centres.
- 2.12.5 **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPS)** - developed to help the Combined Authority and partner councils prioritise investment in walking and cycling infrastructure to support everyday journeys. Phase one LCWIPs have successfully trialled new methodologies for community engagement. This approach is now being rolled out across West Yorkshire.
- 2.12.6 **Housing Affordability and Needs Study** exploring the relationship between housing, transport costs and accessibility to jobs, it identifies a number of disconnected places and evidence to suggest that the decentralisation of employment made possible by car travel, has not led to greater accessibility for low income households which have to make trade- offs between disposable income and transport expenditure.
- 2.12.7 **West Yorkshire Rail Vision and Strategy** - as the first product of the Rail Strategy, the Rail Vision sets out West Yorkshire's ambition for the way in which the railway needs to serve the region, its people

and businesses in the future. Beyond the Rail Vision, development of the full Rail Strategy will translate the high-level objectives, outcomes, and outputs contained in the vision into interventions across the full scope of rail policy.

- 2.12.8 **West Yorkshire Mass Transit** - Mass Transit is a bold new transport mode and a central component of the Connectivity Infrastructure Plan proposals. In parallel to the publication of the Connectivity plan, the vision for Mass Transit will also be published and integrated within the Connectivity Plan.
- 2.13 The options for improving connectivity are identified in spatial plans that show which transport modes and interventions are understood to provide the most appropriate solution for a particular geography and need.
- 2.14 To help quantify the scale of the challenge to meet net-zero carbon, the West Yorkshire Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways (CERP) evidence base assessed the five key sectors of Transport; Buildings; Power; Industry; and Land-use and Agriculture and demonstrate the ways in which the climate emergency could be addressed, and the target met. It identifies that:
- Transport is the largest carbon emitting sector in West Yorkshire; and
  - Transport emissions are dominated by road transport and private vehicle use, with road transport contribution over 90% of transport emissions
- 2.15 Experience has shown in recent years that delivering improved public transport infrastructure alone has not translated to a step change in public transport patronage; a reduction in carbon, particularly on bus; or a reduction in car congestion. Alongside the development of the Connectivity Infrastructure plan, careful consideration of car policies which could complement the infrastructure proposals will be needed, in order to meet the net zero carbon targets.

#### Next steps

- 2.16 The draft plan documentation was published on 27 January 2021, to enable engagement on the connectivity plan, and accompanying daughter documents (Mass Transit vision, Rail Vision and Bus Network Reviews). The next steps would be:
- **January 2021 – March/April 2021:** Period for public and stakeholder engagement
  - **May – June 2021:** Analysis of responses to the engagement
  - **Summer 2021:** Re-shape plan's interventions and priorities following engagement
- 2.17 The aim of the engagement is to seek feedback on the work so far and to help inform the next stages of development. The Connectivity Plan and its daughter documents are hosted on the Your Voice pages of the Combined Authority website. As is consistent with other engagements, engagement on the plan will be mainly carried out digitally. The Combined Authority will also monitor



responses by district and by protected characteristics during the engagement period so promotion of the engagement can be targeted as needed.

- 2.18 It is important that businesses are able to feed into the engagement and the Combined Authority is already talking to representative business groups, will make use of the existing networks such as the Travel Plan network of 350 businesses and the Chair of the LEP has agreed to support. Views of the LEP are sought on further ways to ensure the business community know about the plans and respond.

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

- 3.1 The work described in this report is central to ensuring that the transport sector can play a full part in the region making a green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and decarbonising the West Yorkshire economy by 2038, whilst providing the connectivity improvements that will help to ensure inclusive growth.

### **4 Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.1 The work described in this report is focused on those communities of greatest economic need within the region and providing the connectivity improvements that will help to ensure inclusive growth.

### **5 Financial implications**

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

### **6 Legal implications**

- 6.1 The West Yorkshire Combined Authority is the Local Transport Authority for West Yorkshire. As the Local Transport Authority, the Combined Authority has the legal responsibility to produce and maintain a Transport Strategy for the region.
- 6.2 In 2017, the Combined Authority adopted the West Yorkshire Transport Strategy 2040, setting out our policy framework for improving transport. The transport Connectivity Infrastructure Plan is an extension of this, setting out the spatial delivery plan and long-term pipeline of transport infrastructure improvements to improve connectivity in our region.

### **7 Staffing implications**

- 7.1 Development work has been undertaken within the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Transport Policy Team in partnership with partner district authorities.

### **8 External consultees**

- 8.1 District partners have been engaged in producing the Connectivity Plan. Workshops on various topics were held with Transport Committee Members. The report identifies proposals for engagement on the West Yorkshire

Connectivity plan and long term investment pipeline which is now open to views from stakeholders and members of the public.

## **9 Recommendations**

- 9.1 That the LEP Board notes the content of the Connectivity Infrastructure Plan, WY Mass Transit Vision 2040 and other associated documents and the plans for engagement.
- 9.2 That the LEP Board discusses ways to engage the business community in the plans.

## **10 Background Documents**

- 10.1 All documentation associated with the engagement can be found here:  
<https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/connectivity/>

## **11 Appendices**

- 11.1 None.

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY HELD REMOTELY ON THURSDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2021

### Present:

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe (Chair)	Bradford Council
Councillor Tim Swift MBE (Deputy Chair)	Calderdale Council
Councillor Andy D'Agorne (Substitute)	York Council
Councillor Judith Blake CBE	Leeds City Council
Councillor Stewart Golton	Leeds City Council
Councillor Denise Jeffery	Wakefield Council
Councillor Steven Leigh MBE	Calderdale Council
Roger Marsh OBE DL	Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Peter McBride (Substitute)	Kirklees Council
Councillor Rebecca Poulsen	Bradford Council

### In attendance:

Councillor Kim Groves	Chair, Transport Committee
Councillor Peter Harrand	Chair, Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Ben Still	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Caroline Allen	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Brian Archer	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Melanie Corcoran	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Dave Pearson	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alan Reiss	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Angela Taylor	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Liz Hunter	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alexander Clarke	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Heather Waddington	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Seamus McDonnell	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Justin Wilson	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Ruth Chaplin	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

### 77. Chair's Comments

The Chair advised Members that this was Councillor Judith Blake's last meeting as she had become a Peer in the House of Lords and was now officially Baroness Blake of Leeds. Members and officers passed on their good wishes and congratulations to Baroness Blake on her achievement

and thanked her for the hard work she had done for the Leeds City Region and nationally.

In response, Baroness Blake thanked the Chair, Members and officers for their kind comments and looked forward to continue working closely with the Authority in the future.

**78. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Keith Aspden and Shabir Pandor.

**79. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Stuart Golton declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 11, MCA Preparations, as he was the Liberal Democrat candidate for the role of West Yorkshire Mayor.

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

**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 Appendices 1-3 to Agenda Item 13 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 for the reasons set out in the report that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**81. Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 10 December 2020**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 10 December 2020 be approved.

**82. COVID-19 Update**

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Directors of Economic Services and Policy, Strategy and Communications which:

- Provided an update on developments around the COVID-19 crisis, including economic intelligence and the delivery and development of products and services in response.
- Provided an update on progress on the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan.
- Sought approval for £5 million of immediate local recovery funding across West Yorkshire resulting from the local Economic Recovery Plans.

Members discussed the work being undertaken to support the region to respond to COVID-19. This included the business, employment and skills

support being provided and the longer-term planning for West Yorkshire's economic recovery. Further information in respect of the support being given to businesses and the impact of the investments being made to them would be circulated to Members. It was reported that an independent evaluation of business support activities was being undertaken and a report would be brought to a future meeting.

It was reported that further work has been undertaken in partnership with the five West Yorkshire Local Authorities and the report outlined a request for the funding of key cultural and local economic initiatives to support recovery using £5 million from the gainshare part of the Single Investment Fund (SIF). It was proposed that given the urgent need to support the recovery, delivery will take place at the earliest opportunity, in advance of the SIF being established. It was acknowledged that this is an exceptional arrangement and that all future gainshare/SIF proposals will be approved through the route defined in the Assurance Framework.

It was noted that it has not been possible to provide the statutory 28 days' notice of this key decision being considered due to the need to approve immediate local recovery funding as a priority action to support the local Economic Recovery Plans. However, in accordance with the Combined Authority's Access to Information Annex to Procedure Standing Orders (part 1 section 7C – General Exception), the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been notified and notification has been published on the Authority's website. Accordingly, as set out in the rules of General Exception, the Combined Authority may still make the decision.

A report on further funding proposals for business support, focussing on start-ups, entrepreneurship and innovation will be prepared for the next meeting.

**Resolved:**

- (a) That the Combined Authority approves £5 million gainshare for local COVID-19 recovery to support the delivery of local recovery plans.
- (b) That the latest update around the economic impacts of COVID-19 and progress on the delivery and development of the response to the crisis, including on the economic recovery plan be noted.

**83. Capital Spending and Project Approvals**

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Director, Delivery on the progress and funding for the following schemes through the Combined Authority's assurance process:

- MCA Digital
- A64 Regent Street Bridge – Leeds City Centre Package
- Thorpe Park Rail Station

In addition, it was noted that the following decision points and change requests had been assessed and approved through the agreed delegation process:

- One City Park, Bradford
- Corridor Improvement Programme Phase 1, Huddersfield Southern Corridors
- Parry Lane Enterprise Zone
- Strategic Inward Investment Fund (SIIF) Pipeline Projects
- Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme (LTPTIP) Review 2020 – Part One
- Bradford 'City Village' Phase 1
- Knottingley Skills, Business and Services Hub
- Leeds City Centre Grey to Green
- White Rose Rail Station
- A647 Corridor
- Leeds City Region Employment Hubs – supporting the Economic Recovery Plan
- [re]boot – Adult Retraining Programme

It was reported that a second review of the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund had been undertaken and had been considered by the Investment Committee on 7 January 2021. The Authority approved the recommendations of the Investment Committee which included the proposed funding allocations which were set out in Appendix 1 and the revised programme dates for each project provided in Appendix 2

Members were advised that at their meeting held on 3 February 2021, the Investment Committee had considered an extension of the [re]boot Adult Retraining Programme as part of the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan. Details were provided in the submitted report and it was agreed that approval be delegated to the Investment Committee in order to ensure preparations can be made so the programme can start in line with Government's delivery timeframe.

Details of all the schemes were provided in the submitted report.

**Resolved:**

- (a) In respect of the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund Review –

That following a recommendation from the Investment Committee, the Combined Authority approves:

- (i) That the proposed revised funding allocations as set out in Appendix 1 of the submitted report be approved.
- (ii) That following a number of requests for funding being received for projects within operational programmes, costs should be managed within the operational programme allocation. It is proposed that any changes to individual projects should be

considered by each operational programme board and final recommendations brought for approval to the Investment Committee as and when required. These requests must remain within the envelope of each operational programme.

- (iii) That it be noted that the original purpose of the Corridor Improvement Programme was to provide small to medium scale measures to road corridors to improve traffic flow and bus access. Informal agreement was that costs per project should not exceed £15 million and it was agreed that this should be formalised to help to ensure that the programme budget can be managed within the current funding envelope.
- (iv) That the revised programme dates for each project as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report be approved.
- (v) That in future:
  - Over-programming will be capped at the current level (£115.19 million or 11.5%).
  - All indicative funding levels will be capped, except:
    - a. Where projects are part of an operational programme in this case funding can move between projects or take up unallocated programme headroom funding (all amendments to allocations within operational programmes must be approved by the Investment Committee).
    - b. In exceptional circumstances - officers of the Combined Authority and partner councils will work together to set out the events that would trigger this consideration. Any additional funding requirement will be subject to the availability of headroom within the overprogramming and would need to be agreed before the business case can be approved.
    - c. The Transport Fund will continue to be reviewed annually (commencing in August each year to inform the annual budget setting process). The scope of the review will include: any increased requirement for funding; actual spend and forecast spend; review of overall progress (number of projects in development, delivery and complete); monitoring of the level of over-programming and the estimates of QRA /contingency; and project timetable dates. (Note: decreases in funding can be agreed at any time).
    - d. An interim review will also be undertaken in the spring of 2021 to consider any urgent requests for increases or decreases in project indicative allocation. This review will have a turnaround time of one month and will be undertaken following closure of the annual

accounts in May each year and be considered by the Investment Committee at its meeting in July.

- e. Within the year each operational programme boards will consider requests for changes to funding allocations. Any changes to indicative funding allocations will be reported back to the Investment Committee.
- f. Underspend on completed projects or completed operational programmes will be returned to the Transport Fund central pot to address overprogramming.

(b) In respect of the Digital Skills Programme -

- (i) That the retrospective approval to accept and spend the funding for the £1.3 million Digital Skills pilot be delegated to the Investment Committee so that delivery can commence in line with government's delivery timeframes.
- (ii) That approval, to accept and spend the additional funding for the Digital Skills Programme bid, of up to £3 million (West Yorkshire bid), or up to £9 million (joint bid), subject to the successful outcome of the funding bid, be delegated to the Investment Committee so that delivery can commence in line with government's delivery timeframes.

(c) In respect of MCA Digital –

That following a recommendation from the Investment Committee, the Combined Authority approves:

- (i) That the MCA Digital project proceeds through decision point 2 and work commences on activity 5 (full business case with finalised costs).
- (ii) That an indicative approval to the total project value of £1.97 million is given, to be funded by the Combined Authority from borrowing or the use of capital receipts with full approval to spend being granted once the scheme has progressed through the assurance process to decision point 5 (Full business case with finalised costs).
- (iii) That development costs of £0.156 million are approved in order to progress the scheme to decision point 5 (full business case with finalised costs).
- (iv) That future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report, which will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the report.

(d) In respect of A64 Regent Street Bridge – Leeds City Centre Package



That following a recommendation from the Investment Committee, the Combined Authority approves:

- (i) That the A64 Regent Street Bridge – Leeds City Centre Package scheme proceeds through decision point 5 and work commences on activity 6 (delivery).
  - (ii) That approval be given to the Combined Authority's contribution of £12 million to be funded from the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund (WY+TF). The total scheme value is £31 million.
  - (iii) That approval be given to increase the Leeds City Centre Package programme budget by £12 million from £66.8 million to £78.8 million.
  - (iv) That the Combined Authority enters into a funding agreement with Leeds City Council for expenditure of up to £12 million from the WY+TF.
  - (v) That future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the report.
- (e) In respect of Thorpe Park Rail Station –

That following a recommendation from the Investment Committee, the Combined Authority approves:

- (i) That the Thorpe Park Rail Station scheme proceeds through decision point 3 and work commences on activity 4 (Full business case).
- (ii) That an indicative approval be given to the Combined Authority's contribution of £13.9 million (£3.8 million from the Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme and £10.1 million from the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund), with full approval to spend being granted once the scheme has progressed through the assurance process to decision point 5 (Full business case with finalised costs). The total scheme cost is £31.642 million.
- (iii) That development funding of £3.8 million is approved from the Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme to enable the scheme to progress to decision point 4 (Full business case).
- (iv) That development funding of £0.936 million is approved from the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund to enable the scheme to progress to decision point 4 (Full business case), bringing the total development costs from the WY+TF to £1.436 million.

- (v) That the Combined Authority enters into a legal agreement with Leeds City Council to secure land required for the delivery of the scheme.
- (vi) That future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the report.

#### **84. Covid Bus Funding**

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Director Transport and Property Services on COVID bus funding.

The report provided an update on the current position regarding bus service funding and the uncertainties and cost pressures the ongoing situation was creating in managing the budget for 2021/22.

It was noted that the uncertainty around the continuation of funding to offset the reduced passenger revenues will be a significant financial issue for the Combined Authority in 2021/22. A letter had been sent to the Secretary of State for Transport, jointly signed by all political leaders on the Combined Authority. This had set out the issues and sought assurance that the Government will work closely with the Leeds City Region to support the recovery of bus services essential in rebuilding the economy. A copy of the letter was attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report. The Authority was advised that an additional letter had also been sent from the Conservative Group and a positive response received.

At this stage, the budget for bus funding will be based on expenditure in 2020/21 and will be kept under review when further clarification on the recovery funding is received. It was expected that further details would become available, possibly in March 2021, when the Government's National Bus Strategy is published and a report would be brought to a future meeting.

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

#### **85. Budget and Business Plan 2021/22**

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Director, Corporate Services which:

- Sought approval to the proposed revenue budget and transport levy for 2021/22, the indicative capital budget and programme and treasury management statement.
- Sought approval to the summary business plan for 2021/22 that sets out the services, activities and priorities for the organisation in the coming year.
- Sought approval for the revised forecast outturn revenue position for 2020/21.

## **Revenue Budget Position 2020/21**

Members noted the final forecast position which was set out in Appendix 1. This included, as previously approved, some use of gainshare to support the costs of transition to becoming a mayoral combined authority, including early election costs and legal and project resources.

## **Business Plan 2021/22**

It was reported that all directorates had produced a detailed business plan and a summary of the overarching business plan for the organisation for 2021/22 was attached at Appendix 2. A public facing corporate plan was being developed, and this would draw on the information in the business plans to demonstrate what the Combined Authority and LEP intend to deliver for people in the region in the coming year.

## **Revenue Budget 2021/22**

Members considered the draft baseline revenue budget which was set out in Appendix 3. This assumes that the transport levy is maintained at the current level. It was noted that the budget for 2021/22 will be the first for the Combined Authority as a 'mayoral combined authority'. It was recognised that the budget was not without risks and challenges and these were set out in the report. The future funding position for local authorities, combined authorities and LEPs was still unclear and the pressures and demands to support the region following the exit from the EU and the pandemic were acknowledged.

Details of the Reserves Policy were outlined in the submitted report and the workings for this year's reserves policy were set out in Table 1.

## **Transport Levy**

Details of the net and gross levy by population were provided in Table 2. It was noted that local authorities will be notified of the transport levy by mid-February 2021.

## **Capital Strategy**

It was noted that the capital strategy was currently being reviewed/revised and will be brought to a future meeting for approval.

## **Capital Budget**

The Authority noted the capital funding available to the Combined Authority for 2021/22 and the subsequent years and the indicative capital programme expenditure which were outlined in the submitted report. The capital expenditure and funding budget estimates for the period 2020/21 to 2023/24 were set out in Appendix 4.

It was reported that the Investment Committee would continue to be a key part of the process whereby programmes and projects are considered and recommended for progression. It was also proposed that the arrangement for the Transport Committee to approve Integrated Block funded projects up to a value of £3 million is continued.

### **Treasury Management**

Members noted the Treasury Management Statement which was attached at Appendix 5 and had been endorsed by the Governance & Audit Committee.

It was reported that the draft budget had been produced following scrutiny and input from the Authority, with the Budget Working Group overseeing the detail. In addition, members of the public have been provided with information on the budget position via an engagement campaign on the internet and social media.

Further reports on budgets and changes arising as progress is made on introducing the mayoral powers and functions will be brought to future meetings.

#### **Resolved:**

- (a) That the Combined Authority proposed revenue budget for 2021/22 be approved.
- (b) That the indicative capital programme and budget for 2020/21 – 2023/24 be approved.
- (c) That progress on the 2021/22 business plan be noted.
- (d) That £1.5 million of the 2021/22 gainshare to meet the costs of both the Mayor's Office and mayor readiness costs that are incurred in 2021/22, including final costs of the election process be approved.
- (e) That approval be given to use the 2021/22 Mayoral Capacity Fund of £1 million to meet the additional capacity/support costs as set out in the submitted report.
- (f) That the Transport Committee be delegated to approve individual schemes within the integrated transport block of the 2021/22 capital programme up to a maximum cost of £3 million.
- (g) That in accordance with the powers contained in the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended) and by virtue of article 9(6) of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Order and the Transport Levying Bodies Regulations 2015 (as amended) a levy of £103 million be determined for the year ended 31 March 2022.
- (h) That the Director, Corporate Services be authorised to issue the levy letter in respect of the financial year ending 31 March 2022 to the five District Councils in West Yorkshire.

- (i) That a payment of £5.09 million be made to the five District Councils in accordance with Table 2 of the report.
- (j) That authorisation be given to the Director, Corporate Services to arrange appropriate funding for all expenditure in 2020/21 and 2021/22 subject to statutory limitation, including the most appropriate application of capital funding as set out in the report.
- (k) That once funding is received, approval be given for the Director, Corporate Services to approve payment of highways maintenance funding and the pothole action fund, to be paid quarterly to the West Yorkshire local authorities in accordance with the DfT formula.
- (l) That approval be given to the continuing of the policy, effective from 2017/18, for recovering the Combined Authority costs of managing the capital programme against the capital programme spend being mainly West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund, Transforming Cities, Getting Building Fund, Brownfield Housing, Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport and any schemes developed in year. For 2021/22 the estimated total value is £9.6 million (2% - 3% of the total capital programme).
- (m) That the adoption of the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Public Services be reaffirmed.
- (n) That the treasury management policy as set out in **Appendix 5** be approved.
- (o) That the prudential limits for the next three years as set out in **Appendix 5** be adopted.

## 86. EU Exit

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Director, Policy, Strategy and Communications which provided an update on EU exit, including the implications of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

Members discussed the support being provided to businesses as many were finding it difficult to adjust to the changes. It was recognised that the volume of EU Exit-related enquiries was rising and some required specialist support because they were complex. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) had allocated c.£250,000 to assist in the delivery of business support up to 31 March 2021. Enterprise Growth Solutions (EGS) have been appointed to deliver an EU Exit support service which will provide advice via a team of experts and this facility will be initially available until the end of March 2021. It was also proposed to appoint two delivery partners to provide advice with legal and finance issues related to EU Exit and it was expected that additional support in respect of marketing and communications would be provided in the near future

It was noted that as a result of the EU-UK Agreement further financial resources may be required to support businesses in maximising the opportunities and minimising any potential negative impacts of the deal's implementation. This would be subject to further analysis and intelligence relating to key issues.

**Resolved:**

- (a) That the initial analysis of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement be noted.
- (b) That the business support activity being undertaken in West Yorkshire be noted.

**87. Strategic Rail**

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Director, Policy, Strategy and Communications which provided an update on strategic rail matters affecting the Leeds City Region.

Members discussed and noted the updates which included

- Rail Strategy
- Rail Needs Assessment and Integrated Plan
- Spending Review and Impact on rail budget
- Northern Powerhouse Rail Strategic Outline Case
- Union Connectivity Review
- Rail Industry Reform

It was noted that the Rail Needs Assessment had been published by the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) and the West Yorkshire Leaders had written to the Secretary of State for Transport highlighting their concerns. It was considered that the report did not sufficiently address the economic consequences if the rail projects for the region did not go ahead. Whilst there was a focus on regional connectivity and an attempt to look at the packaging of schemes their conclusions were considered to be insufficient to address the levelling up agenda for the North and that the future of the region's long-awaited rail schemes were being compromised because of other projects such as HS2 going over budget elsewhere in the country.

It was reported that an initial preferred Northern Powerhouse Rail network had been endorsed by TfN and they would submit the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) in Spring 2021.

Members expressed their concern regarding the delay to the publication of the Williams Rail Review and associated White Paper and its treatment of rail devolution. This had originally been expected to be published in Autumn 2019 but was now expected early in 2021.

An independent review on connectivity in the UK was being undertaken by Sir Peter Hendy. An interim report was due to be published in the near future and a final report setting out recommendations in Summer 2021.

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

## **88. MCA Preparations**

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Managing Director on Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) preparations which:

- Provided an update on work underway to become an MCA and to implement the 'minded to' devolution deal agreed between West Yorkshire Leaders and Government on 11 March 2020.
- Sought approval on the decision-making arrangements for new Non-Mayoral Functions.
- Sought approval on the proposals to recruit and appoint an additional Director post to accommodate the extra functions that will result from the move to an MCA.

It was reported that the Mayoral Order had been debated and passed in both the House of Commons and House of Lords. Members welcomed the confirmation of the landmark West Yorkshire devolution deal. It was noted it had taken many years to finalise and the Chair thanked both Members and officers for the achievement.

Progress across the three areas of the MCA Ready Programme – Partnerships, Organisational Readiness and Deal Implementation was outlined in the report. It was noted that Combined Authority officers are working closely with the Electoral Services Manager at Leeds City Council in order to prepare for the election of the Mayor in May 2021. It was agreed that the Chief Executive of Leeds City Council be appointed as the Combined Authority Returning Officer (CARO), supported by the Combined Authority's Managing Director as one of the Deputy Combined Authority Returning Officers.

The Authority considered and approved the recommendations in respect of the decision-making arrangements for the new non-mayoral functions and MCA governance which were set out in the report. It was reported that the Assurance Framework had been revised to include the Mayoral Combined Authority's role and remit including the Mayor's role in decision-making and this had now been formally approved by Government.

Members considered the review of the organisational structure which had been undertaken and discussed the proposed amendments which included an additional Director post. The Authority approved the proposed amendments and endorsed the role profiles and approach to recruiting to the additional Director position.

**Resolved:**

- (a) In respect of MCA Governance, the Combined Authority approves:
  - (i) That decision-making in respect of the Non-Mayoral Functions be carried out under current arrangements, subject to the outcome of any future general review of committee arrangements, and any amendments to be made by the Head of Legal and Governance Services under delegated authority and in consultation with the Chair of the Combined authority to facilitate their implementation.
  - (ii) That authority be delegated to the Head of Legal and Governance Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Combined Authority, to make any amendments to existing governance arrangements to facilitate the implementation of the new Non-Mayoral Functions.
  - (iii) That the Head of Legal and Governance Services be authorised to extend the remit of the Independent Remuneration Panel to include any other allowances should such a review be needed at any time in the next 12 months, and to determine and pay an allowance or expenses to the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- (b) In respect of the organisational structure:
  - (i) That an amendment to the Combined Authority's establishment be approved to create an additional Director position and separate out the current Policy, Strategy and Communications Directorate.
  - (ii) That the proposed role profiles and approach to recruiting to the subsequent vacant position be endorsed, delegating finalisation to the Combined Authority's Managing Director, in consultation with Members as set out in paragraph 2.54 of the submitted report.
  - (iii) That authority be given to the Combined Authority's Managing Director to implement interim arrangements if required.

**89. Corporate Planning & Performance**

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Director, Corporate Services which provided an update on corporate performance including progress against corporate plan priorities and risk management.

Members noted the summary of the performance against the key performance indicators and strategic organisational risks which were provided in Appendix 1.



In respect of the revenue budget position 2020/21, the Authority had considered a separate report on the agenda which provided full information on the revenue budgets for 2020/21 and 2021/22.

**Resolved:** That the information provided on corporate performance be noted.

**90. European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) – Sustainable Urban Development (SUD)**

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Director, Corporate Services on the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) – Sustainable Urban Development (SUD).

It was reported that the Investment Committee had considered the detail and endorsed the advice and decision provided in the two full assessment forms which were attached as Exempt Appendices 2 and 3.

In its role as the Intermediate Body (IB), the Combined Authority discussed and agreed the recommendations and advice provided in the exempt appendices. Members raised the importance of the flood risk authorities being involved in the assessment of the Erringden Hillside Flood Alleviation Scheme. Confirmation of this would be sought and Members' comments reflected in the assessment. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), as Managing Authority (MA), will finalise its assessment and make its decision based on a reconciliation to the available budget.

**Resolved:** That the Combined Authority, in its role as the Intermediate Body for the SUD part of the ESIF programme, approves the advice included in the full assessment forms at part 2 of exempt Appendices 2 and 3 to allow the Managing Authority to now issue a funding agreement subject to the proposed conditions set out in the full assessments being fully met.

**91. Minutes for Information**

The Combined Authority noted the minutes of the committees and panels that have been published on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's website since the last meeting.

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

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