

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

Date: 23 January 2019

Subject: **Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Update**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide a summary of the Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel (IGPPP) meeting on 4 December 2018.

2. Information

Local Inclusive Industrial Strategy and Leeds City Region Policy Framework

- 2.1 The Panel received an update on the development of the Leeds City Region Policy Framework and a Local Inclusive Industrial Strategy, with inclusive growth embedded across both. The ongoing work regarding the Local Inclusive Industrial strategy will be reported to the IGPPP in addition to the LEP Board, with IGPPP members able to comment.
- 2.2 The Panel was informed that the respective evidence base will be approached as inclusively as possible with community groups and young people to be involved.

Inclusive Growth Workshop

- 2.3 After the first meeting, members of the Panel agreed to focus their initial work programme on digital inclusion, health and good work. To identify specific regional delivery needs and opportunities, a workshop was held in November, bringing together Panel members, community sector organisations, Community Service leads from all West Yorkshire districts and the Combined Authority colleagues to share their understanding of key issues in deprived communities and crucially what actions could be taken to bring about change.
- 2.4 Panel members provided positive feedback on the workshop, commenting in particular on the quality and depth of discussion. It was suggested that officers could report back to the Chair and Chief Executive member with a future workshop program. The Panel discussed the opportunity to build on the discussion and further investigate local best practice by visiting sites and

projects across the districts. The Kirklees Community Hubs was suggested as a possible example.

Digital Inclusion

- 2.5 Reflecting on a presentation, the Panel discussed some of the ongoing work across the districts, with the work of Leeds City Council with the Good Things Foundation identified as a leading scheme in this respect. This led the Panel to provide a mandate to address digital inclusion as part of its work programme.
- 2.6 The respective report outlined three possible delivery options to address digital inclusion. The Panel expressed a great interest to take forward an option which includes:
- Securing senior level buy in for the agenda,
 - Establishing a City Region Digital Inclusion working group to share best practice and experiences.
 - Undertaking a gap analysis of existing support across the City Region (including through community sector organisations), and economic and social return on investment modelling.

Health and Healthy Streets

- 2.7 The Panel and workshop had previously considered a number of issues around public health which had been identified as a central part of the inclusive growth agenda, including the need to reduce health inequalities. In relation to this, the Panel was provided with a presentation on the proposed West Yorkshire Healthy Streets initiative which included plans to implement 'demonstration projects' in each of the five districts, with a particular focus on the inclusive growth corridors and driving public health improvements.
- 2.8 It was recognised that Healthy Streets encompassed multiple policy agendas, including transport, public health, place making and inclusive growth. The Panel discussed how the Healthy Streets initiative may fit into its work. It was noted that while Healthy Streets sits with the Transport Committee and the individual districts at an operational level, there was an opportunity for the Panel to feed into the design of the proposed demonstrators at a more strategic level in order, for example, to maximise public health improvements. It was suggested therefore that there could usefully be an emphasis placed through the demonstrators on addressing health inequalities and reducing air pollution in our most deprived communities.
- 2.9 The Panel requested more evidence and further thinking around the inclusive growth applications with a particular focus on health inequalities.

Good work

- 2.10 The Panel considered a report about 'good work' and was informed of some of the activities already in place to promote 'good work' across the City Region. The Panel noted the funding made available by the Business Rates Pool

Committee for inclusive growth projects designed to drive good work and it was suggested that the Panel could liaise with the Business Rates Pool Committee to gain further insight.

- 2.11 Bill Adams from TUC provided the Panel with a presentation which outlined the TUC's 'Great Jobs Agenda'. The agenda provided a series of Standards for 'great jobs'. The Panel commended the agenda and discussed how it might be worked towards. Some suggestions included using aspects of the Great Jobs agenda as criteria for business awards and championing the 'good work' agenda to promote change.

Funding opportunities

- 2.12 The Panel considered a report about the funding opportunities available to drive inclusive growth across the region. The Panel noted the projects funded through the Business Rates Pool as well as the Growing Places Fund.
- 2.13 The Panel was informed that options for funding would be presented at the next meeting, including an update regarding the use of the Growing Places Fund for inclusive growth purposes.

Governance Arrangements

- 2.14 The Panel discussed the possibility of reviewing membership and recruiting new members. It was noted that it was important for future members to come from a diverse range of backgrounds and represent different viewpoints on the inclusive growth agenda.

Date of the next meeting

- 2.15 The next IGPPP meeting will take place on 1 March 2019.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 In addition to core staff resources, a budget of £70,000 was approved by the Business Rate Pool Committee to drive inclusive growth across the City Region which could be used to scope the delivery of the IGPPP's work programme.
- 3.2 Further funding options will be explored over the coming weeks to provide funding for the digital inclusion project.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no implications associated with this paper.

5. Staffing Implications

- 5.1 There are no implications associated with this paper.

6. External Consultees

6.1 External engagement to inform the increase digital inclusion is anticipated to commence in early 2019.

7. Recommendations

7.1 That the LEP Board note and endorse the contents of the report

8. Background Documents

8.1 None.

9. Appendices

None.