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

Date: 26 March 2019

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

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide the LEP Board with a report on the work of the Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel (IGPPP).

2. Information

- 2.1 The IGPPP meeting scheduled for 1 March 2019 gave members, officers and external partners the opportunity to have had a positive discussion across a range to topics that will enable and accelerate the ongoing work programme.

Learning from Inclusive Growth Best Practice

- 2.2 After the Inclusive Growth Workshop in October 2018, IGPPP members suggested learning from best practice in the region by visiting organisations that are exemplars of inclusive growth.
- 2.3 Since Huddersfield New College's Equality and Diversity (E&D) approach has been acknowledged as outstanding by both Ofsted and the National Centre for Diversity and because E&D is essential to being a good employer and skills provider, the College was identified as the first organisation for the Panel to visit. The Sixth Form's Principal and Equality and Diversity Manager provided Panel members with a tour of the College and explained how the approach benefits learners and staff.
- 2.4 Further site visits will be proposed to the IGPPP to learn from best practice, particularly with regards to the Panel's working priorities (good work, digital inclusion, health and work), with the intention to publish a series of best practice papers which could lead to improved practice being adopted more widely across the region.

Inclusive Growth Strategic Framework

- 2.5 The IGPPP is developing a City Region Inclusive Growth Strategic Framework. This will provide a strategic and long-term framework for inclusive growth activities in the region. It will encourage a wide range of public sector, private and third sector partners to work together to increase opportunities for those residents and communities that are currently excluded from economic growth, and will provide a framework for future investment. The draft framework is attached in Appendix 1, and other Panels will be consulted both on the Framework and on how it could contribute to their work.
- 2.6 The main aim of the Framework is to help to identify the most pressing inclusion challenges in the City Region, guide realistic ambitions to reduce those barriers, identify interventions and investments which can best address those challenges, and evaluate that these interventions are delivering the necessary changes.
- 2.7 Examples of relevant types of sub regional interventions therefore include:
- **Targeted investment in physical infrastructure** – such as more affordable, better insulated housing, improved transport connectivity for everyone, flood prevention, broadband. An example could be improving connectivity on Inclusive Growth Corridors.
 - **Boosting social infrastructure** – e.g. public health, early years support, careers and enterprise advice in schools, skills/apprenticeships and employment services, business support. An example could be digital skills training for low income families and individuals.
 - **'Blended' investments and interventions** – note that because of its statutory functions and remit, Leeds City Region is well placed to deliver and co-ordinate integrated interventions. An example could include 'Healthy Streets' (i.e. combining public health, place making/regeneration and transport).
- 2.8 It is proposed to establish a regional Inclusive Growth support group that includes a range of partners from the public, private and community sectors, including senior officers from all districts across the City Region. This will ensure an inclusive approach to the development of the Framework, and resulting programmes.

Update on Broadband Rollout

- 2.9 On request of the IGPPP, a paper was presented on the scale of broadband rollout. This showed that current and planned public and commercial delivery programmes will ensure that access to superfast broadband¹ will be available to 99% of premises in the region by the end of 2021/22. This is in line with aspirations outlined in the Leeds City Region Strategic Economic Plan.
- 2.10 The final '1%' of premises that are unlikely to have superfast coverage by 2021/22 are likely to be spread across the City Region. The precise distribution will be subject to ongoing commercial build and is therefore subject

¹ Download speeds of 30 Megabits per Second (Mbps)

to change. They may include pockets of new build development and existing developments in hard to reach areas due to rurality, topography or other technical/physical constraints. Other digital infrastructure build programmes and emerging digital technologies (e.g. 5G mobile technology and Wi-Fi) will be considered to provide connectivity to these areas where possible.

Digital Inclusion

- 2.11 As requested by the IGPPP, a paper outlining delivery options for increasing digital inclusion in the City Region was provided. Since the last Panel meeting, the following work is progressing to develop a Leeds City Region approach to driving inclusive growth through digital inclusion, including:
- High level mapping of current digital inclusion activities that are being delivered by district partners (and others) to ensure programmes can build on existing support. This will be undertaken by local authority partners via the newly established support group.
 - Development of a consultancy brief to identify what practical solutions could best further digital inclusion in the region. This could ask consultants to outline the return on investment of different (costed) digital inclusion approaches, which could include:
 - Training and support provided to a core group across the City Region to upskill and promote digital inclusion in grassroots organisations, working through existing organisations and community groups to raise the digital capacity and capability of those to support local communities.
 - Rolling out services such as tablet lending schemes.
 - Free Wi-Fi pilots, including provision of free Wi-Fi in community areas.
 - Targeted support workshops to ensure more residents are able to go online.
 - Schemes for accessing appropriate digital devices.
 - The role of libraries and other community spaces and how these can reduce isolation, create meeting places and digital training opportunities.

Opportunities for West Yorkshire in the context of the NHS Long Term Plan and Inclusive Growth

- 2.12 The IGPPP has the opportunity to feed into the five Year Strategy for Health and Care for West Yorkshire and Harrogate, particularly with Government's ask for inclusion to feature much more prominently in both plans and for better links between health and wellbeing. The respective IGPPP report sets out how the IGPPP could influence the strategy over the coming months. Final approval of the strategy is anticipated in September 2019.

Funding for inclusive growth

- 2.13 A funding update paper was provided to IGPPP Panel members, outlining the LEP Board's decision to use about 20% of the Growing Places Fund capital return funds to directly fund projects that improve outcomes that support Inclusive Growth. This currently equates to circa £700,000 and IGPPP members will receive regular updates about future funding available.

- 2.14 The role of the IGPPP was described as to advise on funding allocation across:
- a) A range of new Inclusive Growth programmes to be approved by the Panel;
 - b) Existing/planned programmes to ensure these are delivered in an inclusive way. Examples of existing/planned programmes with an explicit consideration of inclusion include:
 - Enterprise Advisors
 - Inclusive Growth element of Business Grants
 - Pop-up Business Advice Café in communities
 - Inclusive Growth Corridors
 - Business Rate Pool projects aimed at driving Inclusive Growth
- 2.15 As a next step, the IGPPP will receive options on guiding principles for the prioritisation of the funding for existing projects, as well as the chance to discuss a range of specific delivery options for new projects. The principles could be related to funding projects that are addressing particular 'exclusion challenges' in the City Region and aligned with those identified in the Inclusive Growth strategic Framework.

3. Financial Implications

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

4. Legal Implications

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

5. Staffing Implications

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

6. External Consultees

- 6.1 There is no requirement for external consultations arising from this report.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That the report be noted, also noting that the meeting itself was technically inquorate with less than the required minimum of four voting members present. Consequently, no formal decisions were taken on recommendations in the papers, but the discussion held will inform the ongoing work programme.

8. Background Documents

- 8.1 None

9. Appendices

9.1 None