
Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	13 September 2019
Subject:	Cover report: Major strategic developments and preparations

Director:	Angela Taylor, Corporate Services
Author(s):	Khaled Berroum, Scrutiny Officer

1. Purpose of this cover report

- 1.1 To introduce and provide background to the appended reports (Items 8 a – d) covering the topic of ‘major strategic developments and preparations’ including:
- a) Devolution
 - b) LEP review and merger
 - c) Budget, future funding and business planning 2020/21
 - d) Brexit preparations

2. Information

- 2.1 This item acts as a session to update scrutiny on the latest developments, progress and challenges relating to major interlinked strategic issues:

a) Securing meaningful devolution

Scrutiny was last updated briefly in March 2019 after the government rejected the One Yorkshire proposal. Following the appointment of a new prime minister and government in July, discussions around interim deals have reportedly restarted. This will assist in securing vital money, powers and autonomy currently reserved for mayoral combined authorities.

b) Implementing the LEP review and creating a new LEP covering West and North Yorkshire

Scrutiny was last updated in January 2019. Initially, scrutiny was informed that both LEPs hoped to come to an agreement by Spring 2019, but discussions are still continuing. The resolution of geographical overlaps is not the only condition of the LEP review and

this item will also update scrutiny on work being undertaken to ensure the organisation is compliant with the other aspects of the LEP review.

c) Budget, funding and business planning for 2020/21:

Scrutiny will consider:

- provisional ideas and priorities in development for the 2020/21 budget (to be approved by February 2020).
- what preparations are in place regarding financial planning including the gateway review, medium term financial strategy, capital strategy, interim-funding plans and emerging thinking about future revenue funding (eg enterprise zones).

d) Preparations relating to the exit from the European Union (currently expected on 31 October 2019):

The situation regarding the terms of the country's exit from the European Union remain unclear. Scrutiny will consider how the Combined Authority is planning for all eventualities both in organisational terms and with respect to its economic support functions and business facing services under the LEP brand.