

**Note of Workshop -  
Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel**

**14th February 2020  
The Old Fire Station, Gipton**

**Introduction to the Old Fire Station and the work of Gipsil**

- In 2014, the West Yorkshire Fire Service commissioned a new fire station in Killingbeck and decommissioned their stations in Gipton and Stanks. Two locally-based community organisations (Gipsil and Zest Health for Life) approached Leeds Community Foundation (LCF) to see if it was possible to save the building for the community by converting it into a Community and Enterprise hub.
- LCF managed a significant fund set up by the late Jimi Heselden, a local businessman who was born and brought up in East Leeds. Following discussions with Jimi's family, LCF was able to make a grant from Jimbo's Fund to finance the purchase and renovation of the former fire station. Jimi felt passionately about supporting his local community, so this was a very appropriate way of acknowledging his tremendous generosity.
- Other third sector partners came on board as potential tenants, and contractors were appointed.
- The project began to take shape and the renovation was completed in August 2017 and the building has been transformed into a bright modern hub of activity.
- Many of the original features have been retained - old pumps, the firemans' poles some flooring and tiles - with the building being transformed into a bright modern hub of activity.
- Gipsil started as 'Gipton Supported Independent Living', and formed by members of Gipton local community because of numbers of young people 'sofa-surfing'.
- Gipsil increased their service provision based on local needs, expanding gradually through contracts with Leeds City Council - initially supporting vulnerable young people on the estate - then expanding across the City to support care leavers.
- Government funding was secured for the refurbishment of empty homes in East Leeds, which then led to the establishment of the 'Elevate' Social Enterprise - bringing in additional funding.
- Building upon this work in collaboration with a range of local organisations led to the transfer of support services, including Archway Resource centre, The Beck health and well-being, Renew (construction and housing), to Gipsil in 2016.
- Gipsil now delivers support to young people, particularly vulnerable groups including care leavers and single parents, across Leeds. In addition to supporting housing and wellbeing, this has expanded to skills and employment.

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### **Roundup of LCR Local Inclusive Growth Activities**

Panel members were requested to outline circa 3 current examples of local Inclusive Growth activity with a view to sharing best practice, learning and scaling up opportunities:

#### Bradford:

- **Procurement** - LA spending power to support the third sector, eg third sector representation on interview panel for appointment of Head of Procurement
- **Skills** eg supporting Screen Yorkshire's 'Beyond Brontes' to promote inclusion in the film making industry, and PWC is training young and diverse recruits
- **Social enterprise** – secured a significant national Local Action Fund award.

#### Calderdale (provided post-workshop):

- **Park and Warley programme** based on community engagement, employment and social value as its guiding themes.
- **Community wealth building** principles incorporated into early stage proposals for the Towns funding.
- Recently joined the '**Keep it Local**' Network in order to promote local commissioning through community engagement.

#### Kirklees:

- **Community asset transfer** support – number of successes
- **Local supply chains/procurement** – use of Social Value portal to quantify the impact – currently 57% with SMES vs 47% benchmark
- **Poverty proofing the school day** - engaged schools locally to identify and address the non-obvious signs of poverty

#### Leeds:

- **Creative and Digital Workspace Fund** – to address third sector orgs being priced out of city centre locations
- **100% digital Leeds** – eg high profile 'tech mums' clubs providing digital skills training
- **Employment initiatives** - eg Leeds teaching hospital, which had persistent vacancies, brought 24 local people into healthcare jobs.

#### Wakefield:

- CLLD funded project focusing on **business and enterprise support** in deprived areas
- Transformative capital projects, eg **Rutland Mills** re-development as a creative community hub
- **Getting local people into work** and then progressing, eg through: Works Better Programme; Step-up (includes the employment hub for young people)

#### York:

## Draft

- **Community hubs** using devolved ward funding, re-purposing children's centres, and schools.
- **Vocational training for 14 year olds** - working with York College eg construction and hospitality – targeted at disengaged young people

## WYCA/LEP:

- **Business Grants** – IG criteria/conditions introduced (eg real living wage, school engagement, apprenticeships etc)
- Careers support for individuals with special educational needs - **SEND Hub** - to assist young people vulnerable to becoming NEET
- Inclusive cycling infrastructure investment – eg **City Connect** Castleford to Wakefield Greenway

## West and North Yorkshire Chamber:

- **Leeds Manufacturing Festival** - focus on manufacturing skills and life skills for secondary school aged children
- **UTC** inclusive intake and provides inspiring learning opportunities - e.g. NASA visit
- **Apprentice levy transfers** - bringing organisations together so funding can be better matched and prevent unspent levy from leaving the region

## JRF:

- Focus on best practice and policy advice, eg recent report on how LISs can deliver inclusive growth ( <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/how-local-industrial-strategies-can-deliver-inclusive-growth> )

## West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership:

- **5-year plan** <https://www.wyhpартnership.co.uk/publications/our-five-year-plan/five-year-plan-introduction>
- **Enhancing communities fund** - NHS money going into keeping people well

## Yorkshire Sport Foundation:

- Working with VCS local residents, schools and Leeds City Council partners in Seacroft in an ABCD way - **using physical activity and sport to help people connect into their local communities**, build confidence and resilience through participating in activities and volunteering, and move closer to employment.
- **Coach Core** - working with Sport England and The Royal Foundation (Duke and Duchess of Cambridge) - will launch in Leeds (and potentially Bradford) providing opportunities for young people in challenging communities to gain skills and employment using sport and physical activity as the means.
- Also **working with DWP** in Hemsworth, Wakefield with a range of partners to look at a 'person centred' approach to moving people towards employment

## **Progressing the draft Strategic Inclusive Growth Framework**

### Our IG definition was restated:

***Enabling as many people as possible in LCR to contribute to, and benefit from, economic growth.***

## Draft

The definition embeds the following key perspectives:

- **Social** - benefitting the different groups that face barriers to high quality employment, including those with protected characteristics
- **Place** - addressing inequalities in opportunity within our communities.

The proposed guiding aims of the Framework were noted and agreed:

- To enable all our richly diverse people, places and communities to contribute to - and benefit from - LCR's economic growth.
- To promote collaboration with our partners which builds on proven community and local level Inclusive Growth activities by understanding, trialling and scaling up successful approaches to the City Region level where advantageous to do so.
- To ensure that Inclusive Growth is at the forefront of both local and regional growth ambitions and policy making, such as the emerging Local Industrial Strategy.

An overview was provided to members on progress made to date:

- The Panel noted it had previously considered early thinking on an outline Framework
- Engagement had been undertaken with a number of key stakeholders including:
  - Consultation on challenges, opportunities and what is needed at LCR level to deliver Inclusive Growth
  - Comprehensive information collection/mapping, ie understanding what is happening at local and community levels, and what is potentially scalable to the regional level.
  - Co-designing of:
    - Strategic IG Goals (ie Wellbeing, Connectivity & Accessibility, Transferable and Relevant Skills, and Good Work,
    - Ambition statements against each Goal (from the perspectives of the individual, employers and the region), and
    - Related indicative actions/interventions/investments (supported by logic models/theory of change)

Next steps:

- Officers to finalise the draft Framework in consultation with the Chief Executive lead and the Panel Chair, including by capturing scalable local IG activities identified, as far as possible.
- Consult wider stakeholders on the draft Framework in due course and ensure that the consultation captures the community voice.
- Following the consultation exercise, finalise the Framework and seek its endorsement by the Panel and then adoption by CA and LEP.