
Report to: Place Panel

Date: 28 July 2020

Subject: **COVID-19 Recovery Plans**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Place Panel on development of draft plans for COVID-19 economic and transport recovery.

2. Information

- 2.1 Draft versions of the COVID-19 economic and transport recovery plans were presented to the Combined Authority at their meeting on 27 July 2020. The draft plans, alongside the covering report, can be found at Item 6 on the Combined Authority agenda.
westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=133&MIId=963
- 2.2 The plans are summarised below. A verbal update will be given at the meeting on the outcome of the Combined Authority meeting.

Economic Recovery

- 2.3 The draft recovery plan is framed around two goals: inclusive growth and sustainable environment. These underpin everything in the plan and will be reinforced by measuring success through economic, social and environmental indicators. To achieve those goals, the plan is structured around three priorities, articulating what is needed through rescue (short-term 6-12months), re-imagining (medium-term 1-2years) and resilience (long term 2-5years) phases of recovery:
- Priority area 1: **Good Jobs and Resilient Businesses** - To protect and create good jobs by developing resilient businesses through increasing innovation, trade and investment.
 - Priority area 2: **Skills and training** - To ensure everyone can develop the skills they need to secure a job or to start their own business.

- Priority area 3: **Accelerated infrastructure** - To develop infrastructure that unlocks economic opportunities and delivers resilience both for our communities and environment.

- 2.4 Across all these areas the plan outlines what steps are required of national government and at a regional level, and what funding is required for this. Across the plan there are initial funding asks in the order of £1.11bn, which will need to be further refined and developed subject to future announcements and further understanding of the impact.
- 2.5 The plan also articulates several distinctive West Yorkshire propositions that can support not just the region's recovery, but also make a significant contribution to the UK economy as a whole. Each of the four initial propositions (further ones may be added in future), includes both an offer and ask to Government:
1. **Health innovation** – building on the region's world-leading strengths in devices, data and diagnostics, unlocking industry collaboration, skills and a globally positioned Act Early institution on disease prevention.
 2. **Lives transformed by digital tech** - ensure no one is left behind in a digital and tech enabled future from the basis of the fastest growing digital sector in the UK, driving broadband infrastructure, digital skills and Made Smarter investment to support digital adoption in manufacturing.
 3. **Transition to Net Zero Carbon Resilient Economy**– supporting our net zero 2038 target, with unique industry strengths in low carbon transport, clean agri-tech, construction and circular economy, delivering a pipeline of critical green and blue infrastructure, up to 71,300 jobs and skills and training to help people retrain into low carbon opportunities
 4. **Entrepreneurship**– focussed on the diversity of our communities, our existing scale-up performance and our MIT REAP programme for high growth pre-starts, unleashing an entrepreneurial revolution, transforming empty properties and providing accelerator funding for high-growth potential start-ups.
- 2.6 The plan will align with, but not duplicate, local plans being developed by Councils and other regional plans e.g. health. As the implications of COVID-19 continue to develop, the plan will be further updated to make sure priorities remain relevant and are amended as required to meet the recovery needs of the region.

Transport Recovery

- 2.10 The draft Transport Recovery Plan sets out actions required to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 and the related economic crisis, with the intent to ensure the right transport conditions are put in place to meet demand for travel in safety and with confidence. Our key themes for the Transport Recovery Plan are to take action to ensure the survival of the bus network, as a vital part of a fully functioning and thriving public transport network that serves all communities, for an inclusive economic recovery and to ensure a green and healthy recovery. The COVID-19 crisis presents an opportunity to build on

positive changes in travel behaviour, to take the opportunity to reimagine our neighbourhoods, towns and cities, to support a sustainable economic recovery.

- 2.11 The draft plan identifies priority actions for the rescue (short), re-imagining (medium) and resilience (longer-term) phases of recovery. As the wider consequences of the COVID-19 crisis become known, government guidelines adapt and change, and we learn more about people's changing travel patterns and expectations we will review the priorities and update our actions.

3. Clean Growth Implications

- 3.1 Clean growth implications are being comprehensively considered through the development of the plans, with both the economic opportunities clean growth presents and the challenges that need to be overcome fundamental to the future success of the City Region.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 Inclusive growth and reducing inequality are central aims of both recovery plans.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Delivery of the plans in full will require significant financial resource. As is made clear in the plans, Government funding is required. These requirements will be considered through the future business planning of the Combined Authority / LEP, and key asks and bids submitted to Government at appropriate times.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications as a direct result of this report.

7. Staffing Implications

- 7.1 There are no staffing implications as a direct result of this report.

8. External Consultees

- 8.1 The development of the recovery plans has been led by the Combined Authority's Economic Recovery Board and the Transport Committee. Further to this, the LEP Board all the LEP Panels have been consulted on the emerging economic recovery plan. There has been regular engagement with Local Authority officers developing local economic recovery plans, to ensure alignment.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 That the Place Panel notes the draft COVID-19 economic and transport recovery plans, and makes recommendations for further development as the crisis and recovery progresses.

10. Background Documents

Report to the Combined Authority on 27 July 2020, *COVID-19 Economic and Transport Recovery Plans*.

[westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=133&MIId=963](https://www.westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=133&MIId=963)

11. Appendices

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