
Report to: Place Panel

Date: 14 October 2020

Subject: **Spatial Priority Areas (SPAs) Refresh**

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1. Purpose of this report

1.1 To discuss proposed changes to Spatial Priority Areas (SPAs).

2. Information

- 2.1 Initiated by a request by one of the West Yorkshire partner councils to add a new Spatial Priority Area, the Combined Authority has refreshed all SPAs.
- 2.2 SPAs were established in the first version of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) in 2014 under Priority 4: Infrastructure for Growth. They were defined as the largest and / or most strategic growth opportunities within our city region. Additional SPAs were introduced as part of the SEP refresh in 2016.
- 2.3 Following a review of the existing SPA and call for new SPAs (West Yorkshire authorities only), it was considered that the current SPA categories, which were focused on growth opportunities, (Main Centres, Housing Growth Areas, Employment Growth Areas) were no longer aligned well with our strategic policy position and did not allow for the inclusion of the priorities being put forward by local authorities as new SPAs.
- 2.4 In response, in partnership with all local authorities, we have developed new categories (and associated criteria, see Appendix 2) these reflect wider policy priorities including regeneration and urban renewal, towns fund locations and economic and environmental resilience.
- 2.5 Chief Planning Officers, Strategic Place Officer Group and Directors of Development have supported the SPA refresh process and inputted to the changes proposed.

- 2.6 The map provided in Appendix 1a shows the locations of the proposed SPAs. The refreshed SPAs are better aligned to the Combined Authority’s strategic pipelines. We have undertaken an assessment of this alignment and an example is provided in Appendix 1b which demonstrates positive alignment with Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) schemes and the West Yorkshire Transport Fund Plus. We have also tried where possible to ensure that SPAs are broad areas rather than individual sites (supported by clusters of sites in the strategic pipelines).
- 2.7 The value of having SPAs agreed and endorsed is that it provides consensus on our largest and / or most strategic opportunities in our sub region in order to achieved balanced growth across the area. SPAs are of regional significance and / or are cross-boundary locations. This can help with building cases for funding and with prioritisation when funding opportunities arise, it also helps with building the status and investor interest in key locations to support inclusive growth. The categories are designed to distinguish between different types of opportunity and are not a hierarchy of priority for investment decisions.
- 2.8 The draft list of proposed SPAs (and relevant category) are as follows:

Core City (SPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leeds City Centre
Main Urban Centre (SPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bradford City Centre Wakefield City Centre Huddersfield Town Centre Halifax Town Centre
Investment Location (SPA)	<p>Mixed use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canal Road Corridor Chidswell ~ East Leeds Extension Aire Valley City Fields Brighouse Garden Village (Including Clifton)* Kirkstall Forge <p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Langthwaite Grange Extension North West Leeds Employment Hub Newmarket White Rose Office Park Cooper Bridge* <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Castleford Growth Zone Dewsbury Riverside Urban Extension ~ Crosland Moor Bradley Garden Village* <p>Regeneration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ShIPLEY Keighley Dewsbury ~ Batley ~ Todmorden

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brighouse • Five Towns (Castleford, Normanton, Featherstone, Pontefract, Knottingley) • Elland
Future Growth Location (SPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knottingley and Ferrybridge Growth Area (proposed additional allocations) • South Kirkby Urban Extension (proposed additional allocation) • Newmarket (proposed additional allocation) • Broad Cut Farm (proposed additional allocation) • Apperley Bridge / Esholt • Holme Wood
Environmental opportunity (SPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calder Valley

* Sites fall within the Garden Village Corridor SPA Cluster

~ Sites fall within the North Kirklees Growth Zone SPA Cluster

2.9 The review of SPAs has been limited to West Yorkshire councils to reflect that the purpose of SPAs is linked to investment and that in the context of devolution the future focus of our funding is West Yorkshire. The SPAs have been built bottom-up from district priorities, working within the new criteria. It is intended that the SPAs remain under review and partner councils are able to put forward additional SPAs at any point as new priorities emerge. Please note that SPAs in the category of Environmental Opportunity are still under development beyond the Calder Valley.

2.10 It is proposed that the SPAs be included in the Place Narrative, an emerging online, interactive document that will describe our places and how they interact and set out our place-based plans / ambitions and associated committed infrastructure investments. The Place Narrative will form part of our Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) and its development is being driven by the Place Panel and will be refined in partnership with all partner councils.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. The SPA refresh is being undertaken internally by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Policy, Strategy and Communications Directorate.

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 No external consultations have been undertaken.

7. Recommendations

- Note the contents of this report and provide any feedback on this revised approach to identifying and categorising SPAs.
- Discuss the draft list of proposed SPAs (as listed at Paragraph 2.8) to be included in the emerging Place Narrative and Strategic Economic Framework (SEF).

8. Background Documents

None.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1a – Spatial Priority Area Maps

Appendix 1b - Strategic Sites Transport Alignment

Appendix 2 – Spatial Priority Area - Definitions and Criteria - DRAFT