
Report to: Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee

Date: 6 September 2021

Subject: **Planning Review Recommendations**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update and seek approval of the revised Strategic Planning Review Recommendations.

2. Information

Background

- 2.1 The Planning Review document was established in 2015 and updated in 2019. The purpose of the document is to explore the potential roles of the Combined Authority and LEP in adding value to the Duty to Cooperate process and strategic planning.

- 2.2 Key objectives of the review are to:

- Provide clarity on the role of the Combined Authority and LEP on planning matters, which is important for transparency, and for partners and the public to engage on strategic planning matters;
- Identify opportunities to strengthen joint-working arrangements and shared resources on planning matters including identifying potential cost savings and efficiencies;
- Identify whether there are gaps in our strategic planning approach and recommend a way forward to address these gaps if required.

Proposed Changes to the Planning Review Recommendations

- 2.3 The Planning Review Recommendations (Appendix 1) set out in detail the role of the Combined Authority on land-use planning, including workstreams on the following themes:
- Compliance with the Duty to Cooperate;

- Responding to local plan/planning application consultations;
- Identifying opportunities for collaboration;
- Development of strategic planning policy; and
- Governance and Communication

2.4 The Planning Review has a value in clearly stating the limits of our involvement in planning but also identifies the opportunities for collaboration.

2.5 The Planning Review recommendations were last reviewed in 2019 and, in light of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority becoming a Mayoral Combined Authority, require an update. Proposed changes include:

- A recommendation has been added (number 10) which confirms that at the Mayor's discretion, responses will be sent to enquiries on matters relating to planning. We have internal processes in place to ensure that there is communication with Local Planning Authorities in these circumstances.
- References to the mayoral pledges have also been added to the recommendations. Key opportunities for the Combined Authority to influence include the preparation of evidence and the shaping of Local Plans and strategic policy. There is also an opportunity to influence through development management and through our responses to planning applications.
- Minor amendments, for example to reference the Strategic Economic Framework rather than Strategic Economic Plan, to reference the new Committee structures and to reflect current priorities in partnership working on strategic evidence / policy.

2.6 Leeds City Region Heads of Planning have been consulted on the proposed changes to the Planning Review and have contributed to its development.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

3.1 Planning and place-making has a significant role to play in tackling the climate emergency – it drives long-term change in the built and natural environment and can influence travel patterns and behaviours.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

4.1 The Combined Authority's role in strategic planning and place making supports our aspiration for inclusive growth. Maintaining and developing our organisational position on planning and place-making matters will ensure we can make a positive contribution to driving forward inclusive growth.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

5.1 No direct implications arising from this paper however through our role in development management (planning application responses and requests for site-level infrastructure funding) we highlight accessibility needs.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. Staffing Implications

8.1 Resource to respond to planning enquiries is being monitored.

9. External Consultees

9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

10.1 The Committee is requested to note the content of this report and approve the revised Strategic Planning Review Recommendations contained at Appendix 1.

11. Background Documents

None.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Updated Strategic Planning Review Recommendations (July 2021)