

## Leeds City Region Planning Review Recommendations (July 2021 Update)

| WORKSTREAM  | ISSUE   | RECOMMENDATIONS  |
|---|---|--|
| <p>1. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority / Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (the LEP) Compliance with the Duty</p> | <p>The Duty applies in principle to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority in preparation of policies and strategies in the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) such as the Transport Strategy, Connectivity Infrastructure Plan and Economic Strategies, including Covid-19 Recovery Plans.</p>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>The West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the LEP to continue to follow current guidance in preparation of policies and strategies (e.g. SEF and West Yorkshire Transport Strategy)</b></li> <li>2. <b>The West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the LEP to apply the high-level principles of the Statement of Common Ground.</b></li> <li>3. <b>Items to be included on the agenda of the Combined Authority Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee (West Yorkshire political representation) to provide updates on key areas of strategic activity as required.</b></li> <li>4. <b>Transport Committee and North Yorkshire Planning and Transport Members Board to be provided with key updates on relevant strategic activity of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee to ensure cross-policy links are identified.</b></li> <li>5. <b>Joint workshops with both planning and transport portfolios holders in attendance will be undertaken as required on specific topics.</b></li> </ol>   |
| <p>2. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority / the LEP Involvement with Planning Applications</p>                              | <p>The West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the LEP are not statutory consultees on planning applications but are prescribed bodies. These recommendations clarify the role of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the LEP in providing consultation responses on both local and strategic applications on transport matters and economic development matters.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. <b>All applications to be determined by Local Planning Authority (LPA) or planning inspectorate</b></li> <li>7. <b>West Yorkshire Combined Authority to continue to provide consultation responses on planning applications relating to transport matters to West Yorkshire partner councils; responses will provide comments and practical guidance (including recommendations relating to planning gain) to ensure that development proposals are aligned and contribute to meeting the objectives of the West Yorkshire Transport Strategy and LPAs transport policies. Responses to other Leeds City Region authorities will be provided where the development would have an impact on West Yorkshire.</b></li> <li>8. <b>The West Yorkshire Combined Authority to provide consultation responses on planning applications relating to economic development matters to West Yorkshire partner councils - providing an assessment of alignment with the SEF<sup>1</sup>, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the LEP and the Mayor's investments or policy positions. This will</b></li> </ol> |

<sup>1</sup> E.g. Alignment with [Spatial Priority Areas](#): (Core City, Main Urban Centres, Investment Locations, Future Growth Locations and Environmental Opportunity)

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  |   | <p>only be to LPAs and on an exceptions basis such as by the request of LPAs on applications of sub-regional significance and / or where they relate to specific schemes which the West Yorkshire Combined Authority / the LEP have an interest; for example schemes which are part of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority project pipeline for investment.</p> <p>9. The LEP will not provide consultation responses or letters of support on planning applications in order to maintain independence from the development management process and ensure there are no conflicts of interest. As noted in the recommendation above, the Combined Authority will provide responses in relation to the SEF as the accountable body for the LEP.</p> <p>10. The Mayor of West Yorkshire will provide written responses to enquiries received on matters relating to planning. West Yorkshire Combined Authority officers to advise on content of responses (in consultation with West Yorkshire Heads of Planning as appropriate) but these responses will include the Mayor's own views and be sent at the discretion of the Mayor.</p>  |
| <p>3. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority / the LEP input into Local Plans</p> | <p>The West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the LEP are not statutory consultees on local plans but are prescribed bodies. These recommendations clarify the role of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority / the LEP in providing consultation responses on both transport and economic development matters relating to draft development plans.</p> | <p>11. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority to engage in local plan preparation of all West Yorkshire Local Planning Authorities (both informal, early engagement and at publication draft stages) on both transport and economic development matters.</p> <p>12. The LEP will not engage in local plan preparation to maintain independence from the local planning process, and ensure there are no conflicts of interest. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority will provide responses in relation to the SEF as the accountable body for the LEP.</p> <p>13. On both economic development and transport matters a template for self-assessment of plan alignment with the SEF will be developed for completion by the LPA.</p> <p>14. Following receipt of a self-assessment template and at the request of the LPA a formal written response would be provided from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority on both transport and economic development matters.</p> <p>15. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority to continue to provide technical assistance to West Yorkshire LPAs, if required, in relation to accessibility assessments for site allocations subject to resources.</p> <p>16. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority / the LEP to liaise with neighbouring LEP areas on cross boundary issues of strategic importance.</p> |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p>4. Enhanced joint working arrangements</p> | <p>There is a high degree of cooperation taking place on strategic planning matters between Leeds City Region partner councils (and with neighbouring authorities) and there are some examples of resource-sharing and joint services within the Leeds City Region. There may be opportunities to build on this foundation to either decrease risks, improve services or to reduce costs.</p> | <p><b><u>Joint-working:</u></b></p> <p><b>17. LPAs and West Yorkshire Combined Authority to work in partnership to support delivery of the Mayoral Pledges to West Yorkshire.</b></p> <p><b>18.LPAs to notify each other on applications of strategic, cross-boundary significance.</b></p> <p><b>19.Leeds City Region partner councils to use the Health Impact Checklist where it meets local need, with a longer-term ambition to develop a full Health Impact Assessment framework (HIA) that is fit for purpose (relating to development management).</b></p> <p><b>20.Leeds City Region and / or West Yorkshire partner councils explore opportunities for enhanced joint working on flood risk and Sustainable Urban Drainage.</b></p> <p><b>21.The West Yorkshire Combined Authority will review the existing processes in place, including the Assurance Framework, to identify issues and opportunities in achieving greater alignment between development management approvals and the funding of strategic transport infrastructure (including consideration of the timely funding of required infrastructure).</b></p> <p><b><u>Resource Sharing:</u></b></p> <p><b>22.West Yorkshire partner councils to continue to implement the partnership agreement relating to sharing of resources for planning applications and appeals on minerals and waste matters.</b></p> <p><b>23.West Yorkshire partner councils to continue to implement joint working arrangements relating to technical planning services in the Leeds City Region, an MOU is in place with the potential to offer support and operational capability to ensure service resilience particularly during busy periods.</b></p> <p><b>24.Continue to jointly fund major cross boundary studies and evidence gathering, where appropriate.</b></p> |
| <p>5. Strategic Planning Policy</p>           | <p>The current Leeds City Region approach is to build a shared evidence base and where necessary develop joint (non-statutory) plans and strategies. (The exception to this is the Transport Strategy which is a statutory plan for WY. York and</p>  | <p><b>25.West Yorkshire partner councils to continue to work to support the development and implementation of the West Yorkshire Transport Strategy.</b></p> <p><b>26.Leeds City Region partner councils continue to prepare joint evidence on housing requirements and housing markets, and explore the opportunity to prepare joint strategic housing market assessments where appropriate.</b></p> <p><b>27. A commitment by all partner councils to the use of the Leeds City Region Infrastructure Map (online tool) and to keep the data layers up to date, to be coordinated by the West</b></p>  |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | <p>North Yorkshire also have statutory Local Transport Plans). Approaches continue to emerge throughout the UK to address gaps in strategic planning, for example Joint Local Plans and Sub-regional Spatial Development Strategies</p> | <p><b>Yorkshire Combined Authority. This tool illustrates the alignment between Local Plan employment and housing growth opportunities and committed infrastructure investments.</b></p> <p><b>28. To continue to prepare sub-regional, non-statutory, joint evidence and strategies that reflect emerging local plans across the city region (for example the Leeds City Region Connectivity Infrastructure Plan and the Place Narrative as examples of joint work on infrastructure planning and place based analysis).</b></p> <p><b>29. West Yorkshire partner councils and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to consider potential opportunities for statutory strategic planning policy where this adds value and complements Local Plans.</b></p> <p><b>30. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority will work with partner councils to ensure alignment of Local Plan spatial priorities with strategic spatial priorities and strategic infrastructure investment decisions.</b></p>  |
| <p>6. Governance and Communication</p> | <p>Consider potential requirements within existing and emerging governance arrangements.</p>  | <p><b>31. The 5 partner councils in West Yorkshire are local planning authorities. They are therefore empowered by law to exercise statutory planning functions. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority is not an LPA and it is not considered that there is any need to change these current arrangements at this time. Any further consideration of this position will be taken forward in the course of devolution discussions.</b></p> <p><b>32. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority is the accountable body for the LEP. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority and / or LEP Board as appropriate, should continue to be the decision-making bodies with regard to non-statutory, joint policy / evidence on strategic planning matters.</b></p> <p><b>33. The Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee is also a decision making committee of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the LEP with regard to strategic planning and transport planning matters.</b></p> <p><b>34. Arrangements should continue to be made to ensure, and seek to enhance where appropriate, private sector input to strategic planning activities at both local and sub-regional levels.</b></p> |

NB. Several recommendations set out above may be reviewed in the course of further devolution discussions with local partners and Government.