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**Report to:** Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

**Date:** 26 January 2022

**Subject:** **Committee Update Report**

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## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To provide the LEP Board with a brief update from the six Thematic Committees at the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Any substantial items from the committees will be brought to the LEP Board as separate agenda items for comment and feedback.

## **2. Information**

### **Thematic Committee Updates**

#### **2.1 Business, Economy and Innovation Committee**

- 2.1.1 The Committee met on 5<sup>th</sup> January and considered a range of reports to support regional business growth, in particular two items aimed at stimulating innovation across the region: Mayoral Challenge Competition and West Yorkshire Innovation Festival which the Committee strongly supported.
- 2.1.2 The Committee discussed the opportunities to collaborate with other Committees, in particular the Employment and Skills Committee and Climate, Energy and Environment Committee.
- 2.1.3 The Committee received an update on items from the previous meeting: The Healthtech Strategy has now been revised following comments from the last LEP Board and conversations have taken place with key members and will be taken to Combined Authority in February for adoption; The Mayor's Manufacturing Taskforce has now been launched, chaired by Andrew Wright and will report back to the Mayor in mid 2022.

## **2.2 Climate, Energy and Environment Committee**

- 2.2.1 The Committee met on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The Committee discussed the forward meeting plan for the year, with decarbonisation of transport and nature recovery raised as priorities to be given more prominence in the agendas. The Committee discussed the importance of working with other Committees to understand the interdependencies and the role of the Climate Committee where cross-cutting activity is identified.
- 2.2.2 The Committee supported the progression of The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund programme through the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework, noting that the funding decision is still awaited from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).
- 2.2.3 Presentations were provided by Northern PowerGrid on their business plan and programme and by Yorkshire Wildlife and Natural England on nature recovery. Discussion focused on partnership working and the role of the presenting organisations in delivering joint priorities.

## **2.3 Culture, Arts and Creative Industries Committee**

- 2.3.1 Due to the Culture, Arts and Creative Industries Committee meeting being held on 18 January a verbal update will be given at the meeting.

## **2.4 Employment and Skills Committee**

- 2.4.1 The Committee met on 24 January 2022 and received a detailed report on the employment and skills programmes that it oversees. In particular, the Committee received an evaluation of school partnerships activity delivered by the LEP and Combined Authority, co-funded by the Careers and Enterprise Company. This activity aims to improve the careers destinations of the region's most disadvantaged young people through close working with 180 secondary schools and colleges to improve careers education (as measured by the Gatsby benchmarks of good careers guidance). The evaluation found that this activity is a valuable addition to the careers landscape across the Leeds City Region.
- 2.4.2 The Committee was asked to approve a number of actions which will improve the responsiveness of devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) delivery and improve the utilisation of the Lifetime Skills Guarantee (Level 3) delegated funds. The Committee was asked to note the progress and provide comment on partnership work, in particular some proposed high-level principles for collaboration on the Employment and Skills agenda.
- 2.4.3 The Committee was asked to provide comments on the draft Local Skills Report refresh for West Yorkshire and to approve its publication subject to comments received.
- 2.4.4 The Committee's views on an Integrated Care Strategy proposal for West Yorkshire were sought.

## **2.5 Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee (25 November 2021)**

- 2.5.1 The Committee considered and approved the first version of the West Yorkshire Mass Transit Statement of Intent, a document that will provide foundation for cross-boundary working on planning matters relating to mass transit.
- 2.5.2 The Committee agreed to sign up to the Greater Manchester Planning for Places Statement of Common Ground (SoGC) relating to Cross Boundary Transport. The signing of the Statement provides confirmation that we have engaged in the plan preparation and that we agree to continuous joint working. (Kirklees and Calderdale Councils have already signed up to this)
- 2.5.3 A Housing Market dashboard was discussed and noted which set out the latest data on the performance of the region's housing market. Further analysis will be presented to the Committee during 2022.
- 2.5.4 The Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee approved the progression of nine schemes through the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework:

**Rail Parking Package – Outwood** The scheme is part of the Rail Park & Ride Programme, a package of car park extensions which aims to increase access to train services in West Yorkshire and beyond. The scheme is funded by the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund. The scheme gained Approval to Proceed through decision point 3 (outline business case) and for work to commence on activity 4 (full business case).

**TCF – North Halifax Improved Streets for People** The scheme will encourage walking and cycling in north Halifax through a series of improvements including four kilometres of new cycle lanes, walking pathway improvements and traffic calming measures, providing improved access between Ovenden in north Halifax and the town centre. The scheme will be funded by the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF). The scheme gained approval to proceed through decision point 3 (outline business case) and for work to commence on activity 4 (full business case).

**TCF – West Halifax Improved Streets for People** The scheme will improve journeys made by bus and on foot, in the Park ward area in west Halifax, through a series of improvements, including new pedestrian crossing facilities, traffic calming and parking restrictions and bus priority measures at key junctions. The scheme will also improve access to the town centre by bus and on foot from Park ward. The scheme will be funded jointly by the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) and the Integrated Transport Block (Streets for People Demonstration Project).

**White Rose Station** The scheme will deliver a new rail station on the Leeds Huddersfield line. The proposed station will sit between Morley and Cottingley on this section of the Transpennine route. The scheme will enable a shift from road to rail journeys. The scheme will be funded from the Leeds Public

Transport Investment Programme, Transforming Cities Fund, New Stations Fund and other public and private sector match funding. The scheme gained approval to proceed through full business case with finalised costs and for work to commence on activity 5 (delivery).

**BHF West Leeds Phase 1** The scheme will deliver 623 new homes and 362 student residential accommodation on brownfield land located southwest of Leeds city centre. The scheme will be funded from the Brownfield Housing Fund and provide 230 affordable homes. The scheme gained approval to proceed through decision point 3 (outline business case) and work commences on activity 4 (full business case).

**BHF Hebden Bridge** The scheme will be funded from the Brownfield Housing Fund and provide 20 affordable homes in Hebden Bridge. The scheme gained approval to proceed through decision point 3 (outline business case) and work commences on activity 4 (full business case).

**BHF Leeds Central** The scheme will deliver 185 new homes on brownfield land located on a derelict corner site in Leeds. The scheme will be funded from the Brownfield Housing Fund and provide 37 affordable homes. The scheme gained approval to proceed through decision point 4 (full business case, and work commences on activity 5 (delivery).

**BHF Leeds South 1B** The scheme will deliver 142 homes on brownfield land in the South Bank area of Leeds city centre. The scheme will be funded from the Brownfield Housing Fund and provide 13 affordable homes. The scheme gained approval to proceed through decision point 4 (full business case, and work commences on activity 5 (delivery).

**BHF Knottingley** The scheme will build 175 new homes and two retail units on the site of a former industrial site in the Wakefield area. The scheme will be funded from the Brownfield Housing Fund. No affordable homes are provided, however it is hoped the scheme will help stimulate regeneration in the locality. The scheme gained approval to proceed through decision point 4 (full business case, and work commences on activity 5 (delivery).

- 2.5.5 **Broadband** – To provide members of the committee with an update on delivery of Superfast West Yorkshire and York (SWYY) Broadband, Contracts 2 and 3. The SWYY programme aims to deliver fast and reliable broadband infrastructure (defined as broadband with speeds greater than 24 mb/s) in some of the hardest to reach areas of market failure which are not currently targeted through a commercial roll out or were not targeted by previous phases.

## **2.6 Transport Committee**

- 2.6.1 Bus reform continues to be a key topic for Transport Committee, following the publication of the Bus Service Improvement Plan in October, the formal processes have commenced to create an Enhanced Partnership between the Combined Authority, bus operators and Councils which will take effect in April 2022. The outcome of the Authority's bid to Government for bus improvement

funding is awaited. Meanwhile the pandemic continues to have service delivery and financial challenges for the bus service with much uncertainty around funding beyond March 2022; the Mayor has written to Government seeking clarity.

2.6.2 The disappointing outcome of the Government's Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) was reported to the January meeting of Transport Committee. The Committee endorsed the following next steps approved by the Combined Authority in December

- Leeds to Sheffield – as set out in the IRP, a joint piece of work to relook at the desired rail connectivity between Leeds-Sheffield including the opportunity to improve connectivity and journey times for our communities between the cities of Leeds and Sheffield such as Wakefield. As part of this there is an urgent need to address capacity at Leeds station.
- Bradford and the Calder valley – the drivers behind the need for a step-change in rail connectivity for Bradford have not changed. Work is needed to understand how this is now best-done post IRP. As part of this there is a need to agree timing and plans for the Leeds to Bradford electrification and the 12-minute journey time proposal including to press for commitment to the onward electrification from Bradford to Halifax and Manchester and ensuring no negative impacts on local services.
- Transpennine Route Upgrade: Whilst commitment on TRU is welcome, we need to quickly understand the scale of the significant disruption to our communities over an extended period. We also need to understand in more detail the assumed stopping patterns at intermediate stations such as Mirfield, Dewsbury and Morley, to ensure that the IRP meets local as well as inter-city rail needs.
- Mass Transit in West Yorkshire: Once Government commitment and the scope of their objectives are clarified, we need to take forward this project and agree a joint forward plan and a long-term timetable for the delivery of the complete project with the Government.
- ECML and Leeds capacity: We need to understand the plan for investment, ensuring wider needs are considered including platform lengthening at Bradford, capacity at Leeds, impacts on local services and resilience of the route.
- Future Accountability and Funding for NPR: We need to establish the future role of the Mayor and local Leaders in the decision-making of all major rail investment impacting on West Yorkshire.

### **3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

3.1 There are no climate emergency implications directly arising from this report. Any implications from reports will have been addressed at the respective meeting of that Thematic Committee.

### **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

4.1 There are no inclusive growth implications directly arising from this report. Any implications from reports will have been addressed at the respective meeting of that Thematic Committee.

## **5. Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report. Any implications from reports will have been addressed at the respective meeting of that Thematic Committee.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. Any implications from reports will have been addressed at the respective meeting of that Thematic Committee.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report. Any implications from reports will have been addressed at the respective meeting of that Thematic Committee.

## **8. Staffing Implications**

- 8.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report. Any implications from reports will have been addressed at the respective meeting of that Thematic Committee.

## **9. External Consultees**

- 9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

## **10. Recommendations**

- 10.1 That the LEP Board notes the updates from the Thematic Committees.

## **11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

There are no appendices to this report.