

**LEP Board members**  
By Email

7 February 2022

Dear LEP Board Members,

We are writing to you following the Levelling Up White Paper that was published on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, and to underline our continued support for a strong relationship between the public and private sectors in West Yorkshire.

In our region, we have enjoyed a deep partnership between the public and private sectors, fostered over many years, and contributing to our ambition of growing a strong, inclusive, globally competitive economy. We are the only area in the country to have voting private sector members on decision making committees and our Mayoral Combined Authority.

It is clear from the White Paper that the Government share our view that the ambition of levelling up our region and country can only be achieved through strong partnership between the public and private sectors.

There is still much more to do, in terms of levelling up our region compared with London and the South East, and tackling inequalities within the region, so that everyone can contribute to, and share in, its success.

The White Paper said that *'the UK Government is encouraging the integration of LEPs and their business boards into MCAs'* and that further detail on this transition will be provided in writing to LEPs as soon as possible.

For us, the LEP Board has a critical role in shaping the economic policies and programmes and provides an important route for business to influence the future direction of the region. Therefore, our strong intention is for the LEP Board to continue, to recruit a new chair to follow the outstanding leadership of Sir Roger Marsh, and for the new chair to work with LEP members to consider the priorities and focus of the Board going forward.

We intend to continue our current approach with Committees as a joint partnership with voting private sector members and we are starting the next round of recruitment shortly for where we have gaps and to ensure the Committees match our diverse population.

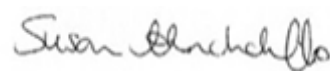
We are particularly keen to retain the talent that exists on the LEP Board and our Committees and see the Levelling Up White Paper as an endorsement and recognition of the success of the partnership we have developed over many years in Leeds City Region.

We will update you further when we have details from Government but in the meantime, please do let us know if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Tracy Brabin  
**Mayor of West Yorkshire**



Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe  
**Leader, City of Bradford**  
**Metropolitan District Council**




Cllr James Lewis  
**Leader, Leeds City Council**



Cllr Denise Jeffrey  
**Leader, Wakefield Council**



Cllr Shabir Pandor  
**Leader, Kirklees Council**



Cllr Tim Swift  
**Leader, Calderdale Council**