
Report to: Place Regeneration and Housing Committee

Date: 7 July 2022

Subject: **Programme Development: Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure**

Director: Liz Hunter, Director Policy Strategy and Communications

Author: Alison Gillespie, Head of Place and Environment Policy

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To engage the Committee as part of early-stage pipeline and programme development work to inform thinking around the future role of the Combined Authority in delivering place and infrastructure pipelines and programmes.

2. Information

Background

- 2.1 At the Combined Authority in June 2021 the approach to the Single Investment Fund (SIF) and the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS) were endorsed. A updated version of the WYIS was agreed at the June 2022 Combined Authority meeting. The WYIS sets out the Investment Priorities for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2024 which are framed across six areas. In each, a number of priority project/programme areas have been identified that are the focus for intervention.

- Investment Priority 1: Good Jobs and Resilient Businesses (including entrepreneurialism)
- Investment Priority 2: Skills and training for people Investment
- Priority 3: Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure Investment
- Priority 4: Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability Investment

- Priority 5: Future Transport Investment Priority
- Priority 6: Culture and Creative Industries

2.2 The West Yorkshire Investment Strategy provides the strategic context for programme development activity. Investment Priority 3 in the strategy is: Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure. It is a broad investment priority with cross-cutting themes but is well aligned to housing, regeneration and digital infrastructure which are key areas of activity driven by this Committee.

2.3 The role of the policy and development team at the Combined Authority, in partnership with local authorities and stakeholders is to develop pipelines and programmes of investment aligned to the WYIS. The West Yorkshire devolution deal has changed the funding landscape within the Combined Authority. Increased flexibility over funding at a West Yorkshire level is enabling a more proactive and less reactive approach to pipeline and programme development. It is in this context that views are sought from the Committee on potential on short-, medium- and long-term investment priorities, within the scope of Investment Priority 3 of the WYIS and aligned with the Committees areas of influence.

2.4 At the meeting of the Committee in February 2022 under a discussion item on the forward plan the following salient points were made which provide useful context for a discussion on programme development priorities:

- How are we, as a Committee contributing to sustainable placemaking?
- How do we make sure we are serving the people we need to and are being inclusive?
- We need a strategic sense of what's coming up in front us – and to be able to view objectives from different perspectives e.g. climate, inclusion, health.
- Our work needs to reflect that in a regeneration context there are areas that work economically and attract inward investment and then there are areas that are the opposite, that need uplifting but in a way that supports what is already working on the ground.

2.5 In considering what we want to achieve through investment in place-based activity the Place Narrative provides a level of strategic context. This document was prepared in partnership with the Place Panel (the advisory panel that preceded this Committee). The Narrative identifies six cross-cutting place-based challenges. These challenges were targeted as they underpin our strategic policy approach on infrastructure. Our investments in infrastructure (and therefore programme development activity) need to shape places in a way that responds to these key challenges. In considering priorities for programme development it is useful to reflect on the extent to which investments will help to tackle these challenges.



Current and potential programmes

- 2.6 The remainder of this report is concerned with providing headline information on potential programme development themes and principles for prioritisation. Feedback is sought from the committee on the following questions:
- What are the key areas or themes that programme development should target?
 - From your experiences, where are the gaps in the place-making landscape which the Combined Authority could provide added value?
 - What are the principles we should use to support prioritisation of investments (for example number or interventions, quality or priority communities)?
- 2.7 To support discussion the table below sets out a number of strategic themes. For some of the themes listed we have well developed pipelines and programmes of funded activity, for example we have an existing Housing Revenue Fund and associated housing pipeline. Please also note that Items 9 Digital Infrastructure and 7 Housing Pipeline Revenue Fund Programme on the Committee's agenda provide detailed information relating to the housing and digital themes so may provide useful context.
- 2.8 It is also important to note that there is an interface between investment priority 3, *Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure Investment* and some of the other investment priorities such as *Future Transport* and *Cultural and Creative Industries* (IP5 and IP6). It will be useful to highlight some of the ways this investment priority can support others, for example high quality green infrastructure and public realm associated with transport interventions.

Potential Programme Development Themes

Theme	Outline Ambition	Target Outcomes
Housing	<p>Unlock stalled sites across West Yorkshire, with priority on delivery of brownfield land and delivery of affordable and accessible housing.</p> <p>Increase the scale and pace of retrofit of existing housing stock, targeting those in fuel poverty but including an all stock as part of a place-based approach / model.</p> <p>Drive higher energy efficiency standards of new homes.</p> <p>(There is a link to the employment opportunities theme where places are mixed-use)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of sites investment ready / viability challenges addressed • New homes enabled and completed • Hectares of land remediated and prepared for development. • Rate of delivery of affordable homes in the region increased • Number of retrofit measures delivered, or services implemented / energy efficiency improved • Improved awareness of the need for homes to be 'dementia ready'
Digital Infrastructure	<p>Improve access to digital infrastructure with a focus on gigabit capable broadband and 5G mobile connectivity for businesses and residents in hard-to-reach areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of premises connected to gigabit capable broadband.
Flood Risk Management (Capital Flood Defences)	<p>Enhanced flood protection for vulnerable homes and businesses.</p> <p>The Authority's pipeline for this theme is well established. It includes 26 flood schemes with a total capital value of £245m and a funding gap of £51m. This pipeline is being considered by the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee (19 July).</p> <p>This theme is linked to the pipeline of Natural Flood Management (NFM) schemes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of businesses (2,700) and homes (3,700) with enhanced flood risk protection

	which is being supported under IP4.	
Design Quality	Improve place-making and design quality of new developments in strategic locations across West Yorkshire, including a focus on inclusion, health and resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of sites / locations within SPAs with design guidance or strategic masterplans.
Safer and Stronger Communities	<p>Make parks in West Yorkshire safer and implement changes to parks to support women and girls to use public parks for sport and recreation.</p> <p>Accelerate the transformation of our towns, cities and rural areas building on their existing assets and opportunities.</p> <p>Support a thriving cultural, arts and sporting sector vital for the West Yorkshire economy - shaping place identity and profile, and attracting and retaining talent and investment, driving inclusive growth, regenerating places and engaging people to develop skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional guidance developed on park design • Number of parks improved • Number of community groups engaged or established • Number of community outreach initiatives supported • Space created for cultural and arts activity
Employment Opportunities	<p>Unlock stalled sites across West Yorkshire, with priority on delivery of brownfield land and delivery of jobs in locations most in need.</p> <p>Drive higher energy efficiency standards of new buildings.</p> <p>(There is a link to the housing opportunities theme where places are mixed-use)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hectares of land remediated and prepared for development • Investment secured or commercial property occupancy, • Jobs accessible by public transport from deprived communities.
Green Infrastructure	Improve resilience and wellbeing of communities by greening neighbourhoods and ensuring new developments have high quality green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of street trees delivered • Access to green space improved

	infrastructure as an integrated part of their design.	
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Prioritisation

- 2.9 In coming to a pipeline of future programmes, it will be important to capture at an early stage key details about each proposal to support decision making around prioritisation and sequencing in particular. Views on the information that should be captured and what should form a consistent approach to enable prioritisation and sequencing are sought from the Committee. As a starting point, the following key principles are suggested:
- That an initiative is able to clearly articulate the challenge or opportunity it seeks to address.
 - That an initiative can demonstrate its alignment to the strategic priorities of the Combined Authority – including to policies as part of the Strategic Economic Framework and to the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy.
 - That indication can be given of the activity that will be delivered, its location, beneficiaries and the high-level outputs or outcomes to be achieved.
 - An initiative should provide an indicative total cost figure, and if any existing funding exists.

Next Steps

- 2.10 Subject to views from the Committee, it is proposed that the Committee discussion will inform the development of draft proposals ahead of the September Committee meeting to allow further refinement and prioritisation, and subject to budgetary decision, bring forward any immediate projects for consideration.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 The proposals and projects aim to support the ambitions of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways for West and North Yorkshire. There are opportunities for projects to deliver low carbon infrastructure, homes or improve the natural environment to enable wider decarbonisation of the economy and our communities. Opportunities to support local climate resilience will be drawn out in individual business cases.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 The proposals aligned to IP3 aim to target the following outcomes all of which support inclusive growth objectives:
- Create healthier, positive and greener places.
 - Accelerate the transformation of our towns and cities into successful, resilient, sustainable places.
 - Increase access to gigabit-capable broadband in hard to reach and/or rural areas.

- Reduction in fuel poverty

Inclusive growth impacts will be drawn out in the business case for each project, for example the potential to deliver local employment, improved housing quality and social value.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 There are EDI implications across all the themes, including a focus on healthy homes for older and vulnerable people through improving energy efficiency and design/adaptations for those with dementia, and addressing the issue of gender equality in access to/safety in parks.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications of this report. The report refers to prioritisation work which will influence project and programme development. Any funding decisions will be made by the Committee as appropriate.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report however some of the prioritised proposals are likely to need legal advice as specific projects and programmes are developed.

8. Staffing Implications

- 8.1 The work on proposals will be resourced by existing staff. At the West Yorkshire Combined Authority meeting on the 3rd February 2022 the Combined Authority approved in principle funding allocations to each Local Authority and the Combined Authority to support capacity issues and enable pipeline development work to be undertaken against the Investment Priorities.

9. External Consultees

- 9.1 The proposals aligned to IP3 will be developed in partnership with local authorities and the appropriate Committee(s).

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 That the Committee considers and provides comment on the proposals included at section 2.6 and identify any additional priorities for consideration under Investment Priority 3.
- 10.2 That the Committee considers and provides comment on the approach to prioritisation and the principles to be applied.

11. Background Documents

West Yorkshire Investment Strategy

<https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s26993/Item%2016%20-%20WYIS%20Review.pdf>

Place Narrative

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3625921e0da445d49f21249781c52edc>

12. Appendices

None