

Report to: Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee

Date: 01 September 2022

Subject: **Evidence Report**

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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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. To provide an update on the relevant monitoring indicators and report on their performance to support the work of the Committee.

2. Information

Indicators

- 2.1. At the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee meeting on 20 April 2022, it was agreed that the Research and Intelligence team would provide ongoing updates to the Committee on the relevant indicators from the State of the Region report.
- 2.2. State of the Region 2022, due to be published in September 2022, will examine the full range of equality, diversity and inclusion implications, building on the Women and Girls report published in 2021. The main report will be supplemented by a series of interactive dashboards, which will allow users to drill down into the available data for each indicator.
- 2.3. State of the Region 2022 will assess performance against around 40 indicators linked to the seven corporate objectives of the Combined Authority. The key indicators for this committee are:

- Healthy life expectancy – healthy life expectancy at birth in West Yorkshire is below the national average
- Net additional dwellings – 2020/21 saw the lowest growth in net additional dwellings since 2014/15
- Housing affordability – house prices are more affordable in all areas of West Yorkshire, relative to the England average
- Rented housing costs – median rents for two-bed dwellings in Leeds are higher than the England average
- Gigabit capable internet coverage¹ - West Yorkshire outperforms the UK average with regard to gigabit capable internet coverage
- Take-up of superfast (or above) broadband services – Take up levels are greater in West Yorkshire than the UK average
- Mobile coverage (4G and 5G) – West Yorkshire’s 4G coverage is above the national average
- Building energy efficiency² - West Yorkshire homes with an energy performance certificate are less likely to have an efficiency rating of C or above compared to the national average
- Households in fuel poverty – Households in West Yorkshire are more likely to be exposed to fuel poverty than the England average

2.4. The Government data source for the number of households in fuel poverty operates with a two-year lag, meaning that data published this year relates to 2020. As a result, the data does not capture the impact of rising fuel costs that we are currently seeing. In order to still provide some context on the issue of fuel poverty in West Yorkshire, we have combined information from a range of different sources in Appendix 1.

2.5. Data visualisations for each of these indicators most relevant to the Committee can be found in Appendix 1.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

3.1. The latest data on dwellings with an Energy Performance Certificate indicate that dwellings in West Yorkshire are less likely to have an energy efficiency rating of C or above compared to the national average. In addition to posing a threat to tackling the climate emergency, this also exposes dwellings in West Yorkshire to increased fuel costs, with dwellings requiring a greater amount of energy to heat and light than in other areas.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

4.1. The latest updates present a range of challenges to inclusive growth. Consumer Price Inflation is currently at 9.4%, and the UK currently finds itself in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis. This is having a particular impact across housing, with the Bank of England raising interest rates, and therefore variable housing costs,

¹ Digital infrastructure indicators are also within scope of the Business, Energy and Innovation Committee.

² Building energy efficiency and households in fuel poverty are also within scope of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee.

to combat inflation. The cost-of-living crisis is also having an impact on fuel costs, with wholesale gas price rises leading to a trebling of projected average fuel costs between Winter 2021 and Winter 2022.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1. Analysis is still ongoing in this space and a full equality, diversity and inclusion report will be available as part of State of the Region 2022. We are conscious of existing inequalities within West Yorkshire and the UK more broadly. For example, the gender pay gap and the deficit endured by women leaves them relatively more exposed to the cost of living crisis than men.

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. There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

9. External Consultees

- 9.1. No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1. That the Committee notes the latest updates to these indicators, and considers any decision within the context of the indicators.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Evidence Report – Slides (PowerPoint)