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

Date: 1 December 2022

Subject: **Committee Update Report**

Led by: Mark Roberts, Interim Chair

Lead Officer: Myles Larrington, Governance Services Officer

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 19 October and considered a range of reports, including the latest economic and business intelligence around the Crisis in the Cost of Living and Doing Business, the Combined Authority's response to the crisis, and asks of the Government.
- 2.1.2 The business and innovation pipeline of delivery was shared with the Committee, including an overview of all previously endorsed programmes and an update on the progress of two programmes due to be presented to the Combined Authority on 21 October, Business West Yorkshire (working title) and the Innovation Support Programme.
- 2.1.3 The Committee was provided with an update on the Combined Authority's ongoing approach to sectors and economic scenarios; the Manufacturing Taskforce's recommendations to inform the Combined Authority's programme delivery; and delivery of the Enterprise West Yorkshire programme.

2.2 Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

- 2.2.1 The Committee met on the 4 October and considered a range of reports relating to the Mayoral pledge to tackle the climate emergency and meeting the 2038 net-zero carbon target.

- 2.2.2 A paper was presented to the Committee on performance against a set of climate and environment monitoring indicators and including a wide-ranging discussion relating the cost of living / doing business crisis. The paper included an overview of the Business Sustainability Voucher scheme and Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Booster programme which were seeking funding from the Combined Authority on 21 October. Both received Committee endorsement.
- 2.2.3 The Committee were provided with an update on progress and were asked to endorse work to date on the Wave 1 Climate and Environment Plan programmes. This was in advance of being considered at the Combined Authority on 21 October. The Committee were very supportive of the programmes and provided their endorsement.
- 2.2.4 Additional papers were presented to the Committee for information on the carbon budget for West Yorkshire and the draft Forward Plan for the next 12 months.

2.3 Culture, Heritage and Sport Committee

- 2.3.1 The Committee met at the Piece Hall, Halifax, on 28th October, and considered a range of reports, including presentations from Calderdale and Wakefield on respective plans for Year of Culture activities in 2024; Sector Economic Intelligence report; a report on the progress of the Creative Catalyst and Mayor's Screen Diversity Programme, and a report the development of the Culture, Heritage and Sport Framework following sector and public engagement.
- 2.3.2 Resolved: That the Committee notes the update on the Cultural, Heritage and Sport Framework, advises of any final amendments, and approves the Framework for publication.

2.4 Employment and Skills Committee

- 2.4.1 The Committee met on 20 October and received an update that in West Yorkshire, West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce, and the Mid-Yorkshire Chamber have been chosen to lead the **LSIP** (Local Skills Improvement Plan being set up by Government) and intend to work closely with WYCA. The Chair will write to both Chambers inviting them to join the Committee.
- 2.4.2 The Committee noted that a grant agreement has been signed with the **TUC Yorkshire and Humber** for a pilot to test the effectiveness of the UnionLearning model in stimulating demand for adult training in West Yorkshire. The model involves utilising trusted colleagues in the workplace to encourage upskilling particularly among people with low skill levels and in low paid work. The Committee also noted new fully funded **Skills Connect** courses for adults to re-train and upskill <https://www.futuregoals.co.uk/skillsconnect>.
- 2.4.3 The Committee discussed a request from providers for an increase to the devolved **Adult Education Budget (AEB) funding rate**. Nationally, the rate

paid per qualification through AEB has not increased in 10 years. In addition, the rising costs of living crisis is affecting running costs, impeding recruitment and increasing the need for learner support. The Committee asked officers to work up options for consideration.

2.4.4 The Committee endorsed the development of **employment and skills interventions**, including green jobs taskforce and interventions from the climate and environment action plan, digital skills interventions and a SME graduate programme. Since the Committee met, the Combined Authority board has approved the **Employment West Yorkshire** programme. Employment West Yorkshire will be delivered by Local Authorities and support 7,700 individuals towards, into and within work. The Committee noted the joint work of local authority and combined authority officers to provide a much needed service in West Yorkshire to support with labour shortages and good work.

2.5 Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee

2.5.1 The Committee met on 03 November and considered a range of reports, including:

- i) Economic Update - which provided an update on the relevant economic indicators and reported on their performance to support the work of the Committee, including the State of the Region, the Cost of Living and Doing Business, the Leeds City Region Business Survey and Footfall Data.
- ii) Housing Pledge and Policy – which provided an update on progress towards delivery of the Mayoral pledge to deliver 5000 affordable and sustainable homes in West Yorkshire, including an update on Affordable Housing Delivery, the Housing Revenue Fund, the Brownfield Housing Fund, the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) and Community Renewal Fund (CRF) Retrofit Hub, the West Yorkshire Housing Strategy and a presentation from the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership.
- iii) Project Approvals - The committee approved the progression of two schemes through the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework:

<p>Scheme: Kirkstall Road Residential Development</p> <p>Location: Leeds</p>	<p>Approval to proceed through decision point 3 (outline business case) and work commences on activity 4 (full business case).</p> <p>Total value of the scheme - £141,078,196</p> <p>Total value of Combined Authority funding - £7,159,715</p> <p>Funding recommendation sought - £0</p> <p>Approval was given by the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee using the delegated authority from the Combined Authority</p>
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<p>Scheme: West Yorkshire and York Superfast Broadband Contract 3</p> <p>Location: West Yorkshire and York</p>	<p>Approval to the change request to the West Yorkshire and York Superfast Broadband Contract 3 project to reduce the total project cost from £9,110,000 (£7,570,000 Combined Authority funding) to £4,539,304 (£3,841,558 Combined Authority funding), reduce the publicly funded outputs of the project to 3,530 premises and 746 businesses receiving the broadband service and increase the delivery timeframes for the remaining 2041 premises from July 2022 to June 2023.</p> <p>Total value of the scheme: £4,539,304</p> <p>Total value of Combined Authority funding: £3,841,558</p> <p>Funding recommendation sought: -£3,728,442</p> <p>Approval was given by the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee using the delegated authority from the Combined Authority</p>
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- iv) Strategic Partnership with Homes England - which provided an update on the development of the Strategic Place Partnership (SPP) with Homes England, asked Committee members to consider, provide comments and endorse the proposed strategic objectives and set out the next steps.
- v) Investment Zones - which provided an update on the submission of an Expression of Interest to Government for Investment Zones. Guidance on the EoI was released on 02 October 2022 with a submission required by noon on 14 October 2022. A response from Government is awaited.

2.6 Transport Committee

- 2.6.1 The Committee meeting was cancelled on the 16th September and papers were moved forward to the 14th October meeting. The meeting considered a range of reports including a response to the Governments mini budget and the projects identified for acceleration. It was agreed by the Committee that a letter should be written to Government to highlight the need to focus on delivery and ways to accelerate the projects, such as Mass Transit and Northern Powerhouse Rail.
- 2.6.2 The Committee also considered an update on the bus service position and funding. The Committee approved the need for future decisions on Bus Service Improvement Plan funding to be delegated to the Committee. The paper also gave an early update on the Mayors Fares next steps.
- 2.6.3 The Committee were also provided with an update on Mass Transit, this was ahead of the statutory consultation on the Mass Transit Vision 2040 document starting on the Monday 17th October.

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

11.1 There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12 Appendices

12.1 There are no appendices to this report.