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

Date: 8 March 2023

Subject: **Committees 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 24th January and considered a range of reports to support businesses in the region and grow the economy, including the emerging West Yorkshire Plan and aligned Economic Strategy. Discussion centered on the importance of innovation across both strategic plans.
- 2.1.2 The Committee also discussed progress to develop the regional Healthtech agenda and supported plans to further strengthen this through partnership.
- 2.1.3 The Committee reviewed the pipeline of emerging interventions and supported work to strengthen the partnership with Innovate UK, building on the existing relationship and MoU.
- 2.1.4 The Committee discussed work to date to progress the regional digital agenda, including work to establish a new Local Digital Partnership and Digital Blueprint to guide activity and investment in the region.

2.2 Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

- 2.2.1 The Committee met on 10 January 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 The Committee were presented with a draft of the West Yorkshire Plan for discussion and comment. Discussion focussed on the need to strengthen the draft Plan to be bolder in how the region will get to net zero, better articulation of the relationship between the Combined Authority and Government and reflecting the role of the private sector in delivering the Plan.
- 2.2.3 A paper was presented on activity taking place under the umbrella of the Better Homes Hub. A summary of the outcomes and outputs of retrofit activity taking place under the Community Renewal Fund (CRF) and Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) was provided and well received by the Committee. In addition, the Committee were provided with details of the future programme of activity that will be developed, including the development of a one stop shop and retrofit demonstrators. The Committee welcomed the reports and requested that more detail was provided at future meetings.
- 2.2.4 An update on the work and findings of the Mayor's Green Jobs Taskforce to date, including emerging recommendations to develop a pipeline of skills required for the workforce to support the delivery of climate ambitions and the Mayoral pledge of 1,000 jobs for young people was presented to the Committee. The Committee welcomed the opportunity to hear about and feed into the recommendations.
- 2.2.5 Additional papers were presented to the Committee for information on monitoring indicators and response to the cost-of-living crisis, zero emission transport and updates on projects contributing to the delivery of the mayoral climate emergency pledge.

2.3 Culture, Heritage and Sport Committee

- 2.3.1 The Committee met on 26 January 2023 meeting with an agenda covering a range of reports, and one Project Approval.
- 2.3.2 The committee heard a presentation from Officers on the latest State of the Region evidence and plans for a region-wide culture survey.
- 2.3.3 Representatives from East Bierley Community Sports Association gave a progress report on the development of their site, including plans to increase provision for women and girls.
- 2.3.4 Representatives from Bradford UK City of Culture 2025 gave a presentation on their plans to make the event a landmark moment for the city and wider region.
- 2.3.5 The committee heard an update on the development of the West Yorkshire Plan, including the vision for the contribution of culture, heritage and sport to the region.
- 2.3.6 Project Approvals:

The committee discussed the LEEDS 2023: Women of the World, Women of West Yorkshire scheme, and gave approval for the scheme to proceed to decision point 5 (delivery), to the total scheme value of £1,500,000.

<p>LEEDS 2023 – Women of the World, Women of West Yorkshire</p> <p>Leeds</p>	<p>Approval to proceed through decision point 2 to 4 (business justification case) and work commences on activity 5 (delivery).</p> <p>Total value of the scheme - £1,500,000</p> <p>Total value of Combined Authority funding - £1,500,000</p> <p>Funding recommendation sought - £948,328</p> <p>Approval was given by the Culture, Heritage and Sport Committee using the delegated authority from the Combined Authority</p>
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2.4 Employment and Skills Committee

- 2.4.1 The Committee met on 23 January 2023 to consider a range of papers. The meeting started with an update on the employment and skills indicators from State of the Region, supplemented with more timely labour market intelligence and analysis.
- 2.4.2 A paper on the achievements on one year of devolved **Adult Education Budget** was shared with the Committee, alongside immediate priorities for service design including the impact of the recently announced de ring-fencing traineeships. The Committee also considered the proposal for a funding rate increase and supported the recommendation that will be taken to Combined Authority on 3 February for decision.
- 2.4.3 A presentation on the **West Yorkshire Plan** and **Economic Strategy** were given, with Committee members commenting on the design and development of the key overarching economic policies to thematic plans such as the Employment and Skills Framework.
- 2.4.4 Papers on the current performance of **employment and skills programmes**, and future investment of programmes were heard by the Committee.
- 2.4.5 The Committee was asked to provide a steer and input to the draft recommendations of the **Mayor’s Green Jobs Taskforce** which is due to produce its final report, including recommendations and action plan for West Yorkshire in March. The action plan will outline proposals for the Combined Authority to achieve the Mayoral pledge of 1,000 well-paid, green jobs for young people (aged 18-30) and its employment and skills ambition in the climate and environment plan.

2.5 Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee

- 2.5.1 The Committee met on 5th January 2023 and considered a range of reports, including:
- 2.5.2 Economic Update - which provided an update on relevant economic indicators to support the work of the Committee, these include delivery of additional

homes, rental prices, energy efficiency of homes and fuel poverty levels. These were considered in the context of macroeconomics including inflation, interest rates and the impact on the cost of living including mortgages.

- 2.5.3 West Yorkshire Plan – which provided an update on progress towards this plan which will provide an overarching strategic framework for the region.
- 2.5.4 Programme Development - which provided an update on work to prioritise and develop a portfolio of workstreams and programmes under Investment Priority 3 (IP3)
- 2.5.5 Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure. Programmes in development include Housing Accelerator Fund, Employment Accelerator Fund, Spatial Priority Areas, Flood Infrastructure Capital Programme, Digital Infrastructure (Connected Places and Broadband Coverage), Natural Environment (Green Streets and Safer Parks).
- 2.5.6 Spatial Priority Areas - the Committee supported the inclusion of two additional Spatial Priority Areas (SPAs) in the current set of priority locations agreed across West Yorkshire, these were the Huddersfield Station to Stadium Enterprise Corridor and the North Halifax Growth Area. The Committee also supported an amendment to the boundary of one existing SPA, South Kirkby Urban Extension. As the meeting was inquorate these decisions will be ratified at the next meeting of the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee.
- 2.5.7 Community Retrofit Hub Scheme - which provided an update on the Community Renewal Fund Retrofit Hub Pilot, which is one of the projects within our West Yorkshire Better Homes Hub Programme. The key output of the Retrofit Hub scheme was to deliver at least 100 whole house retrofit assessments to householders living in hard to treat, pre-1919s stone built terraced properties in the Manningham and Toller Ward areas in Bradford.
- 2.5.8 Project Approvals - The committee supported the progression of a number of housing schemes through the Combined Authority’s Assurance Framework as part of the Brownfield Housing Fund. As the meeting was inquorate these decisions were taken by the Combined Authority on the 2nd February 2023.

<p>BHF Armley Tower Works</p> <p>Leeds</p>	<p>Approval to proceed through decision point 2 to 4 (business justification) and work commences on activity 5 (delivery).</p> <p>Total estimated value of the scheme - £9,909,032</p> <p>Total value of Combined Authority funding - £932,775</p> <p>Funding recommendation sought - £932,775</p>
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Galem House Bradford	<p>Approval to proceed through decision point 4 (full business case) and work commences on activity 5 (delivery).</p> <p>Total estimated value of the scheme - £9,752,717</p> <p>Total value of Combined Authority funding - £1,200,000</p> <p>Funding recommendation sought - £1,200,000</p>
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- 2.5.9 Safer Parks - which provided a summary of the findings of the Safer Parks research and the next steps. Next steps include a two-day international symposium in May 2023, bringing together academic and non-academic stakeholders working on the prevention and reduction of violence against women and girls in public spaces and the writing of guidance on the design and management of parks.
- 2.5.10 The Committee then met again on 2 March 2023 and considered a range of reports, including:
- 2.5.11 Monitoring Indicators: A report which provided the Committee with an update on the relevant monitoring indicating and report on their performance. Highlights included the fact that the take-up of superfast broadband or faster (greater than 30 mpbs) at UK level is 97%. In all but Calderdale (94.7%), take-up in West Yorkshire is above the UK average. As for the macroeconomy, inflation remains high (10.5%) but it is anticipated that inflation will fall sharply this year, falling to around 5% by the end of 2023.
- 2.5.12 Strategic Place Partnership: A report which sought the endorsement of the Committee of the Strategic Place Partnership (SPP) – Partnership Business Plan. This partnership will be between the Combined Authority and Homes England to build and strengthen collaborative working across the region and help contribute to the delivery of new homes. This will help to meet the needs of the region’s residents and communities.
- 2.5.13 Programme Development: Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure: A report to update the Committee on the programme development for Investment Priority 3 (IP3) Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure. The paper also consulted the Committee on the proposed Employment Accelerator Programme Methodology.
- 2.5.14 Dementia-ready Housing Task Force Update: The West Yorkshire mayor’s housing pledge in May 2021 included the commitment to establish a Dementia Ready Housing Task Force with the ambition of ensuring all older people’s housing and related services are dementia friendly. The Dementia-ready Housing Task Force was established in March 2022 to deliver this commitment. The taskforce has met 7 times since its inception and has drafted objectives, compiled data, begun working with CEOs of the WY Housing Providers Group to establish numbers of dementia friendly new homes proposed over the next 5 years and undertaken a variety of additional engagement work. The task force is now seeking funding from external sources to accelerate its progress to achieve these aims.

- 2.5.15 West Yorkshire Digital Blueprint & Local Digital Partnership: The report outlined proposals to refresh the 2019 Digital Framework and the creation of a Local Digital Partnership.
- 2.5.16 Project Approvals: The committee supported the progression of a number of housing schemes through the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework as part of the Brownfield Housing Fund as well as some additional schemes:

Scheme name, location and brief description	Indicative CA BHF funding	Number of homes
St Cecilia Street, Leeds Registered Provider seeking to delivery 100% affordable scheme.		Approx. 78 homes
Canal 30, Bradford Private sector scheme aimed at transforming derelict mill.		Approx 70 homes

Scheme summaries

<p>BHF Railway Street Leeds</p>	<p>Scheme description</p> <p>The scheme will develop 58 affordable homes in the Burmantofts and Richmond Hill areas in Leeds. The development includes 28 x 1 bed, 25 x 2 bed, and 5 x 3 bed apartments and includes 1 x 2 bed flat to full wheelchair accessibility standards.</p> <p>The scheme is to be delivered through the Brownfield Housing fund.</p> <p>Impact</p> <p>The scheme will implement a low carbon heating solution for heating and hot water as well as providing cycle storage and agile working space for each home. 80% of sub-contractor packages will be let to local companies, and four apprenticeships are being safeguarded through the preferred contractor, with the aim to also create two further apprenticeships throughout the construction period.</p> <p>This scheme includes installation of photovoltaic (PV) panels to the roof of the building and car parking spaces will have electric vehicle charging points.</p> <p>The value for money assessment reflects an adjusted Benefit Cost Ratio of 1.16:1. This is categorised as acceptable value for money.</p> <p>Decision sought</p> <p>Approval to proceed through Decision Point 4 (full business case) and work commences on Activity 5 (delivery).</p> <p>Total value of the scheme - £11,840,257</p> <p>Total value of Combined Authority funding - £1,500,000</p> <p>Funding recommendation sought - £1,500,000.</p> <p>A decision by the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee using the delegated authority from the Combined Authority is sought as part of this report</p>
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Decisions made by the Combined Authority on 2 February 2023

<p>Capital Flood Risk Management Programme West Yorkshire</p>	<p>Approval to proceed through decision point 1 (strategic assessment) and for work to commence on the development of individual business cases.</p> <p>Funding approved - £113,735</p> <p>Total indicative value of the scheme - £249,000,000</p> <p>Total indicative value of Combined Authority funding - £58,412,582 with a proposal that £10,000,000 of Combined Authority funding is utilised in order to leverage other sources</p>
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Flood Alleviation Scheme 2	Approval to proceed through decision point 1 to 4 (business justification) and work continues on activity 5 (delivery).
Leeds	Funding approved - £12,565,000
	Total value of the scheme - £125,826,000
	Total value of Combined Authority funding - £12,565,000

2.6 Transport Committee

- 2.6.1 The Committee met on the 10th February, and considered reports covering a range of different topics.
- 2.6.2 There was a report regarding bus service funding and development of the Bus Network Plan, which detailed the ongoing challenges facing the commercial bus network, including rising costs, ongoing reduced patronage (and therefore revenue) as a result on the pandemic and the possible end of Government funding support. Furthermore, it proposed a way for how Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding could be used to help stabilise as well as enhance and expand the bus network.
- 2.6.3 There was also a report with an update on the £69.9m BSIP programme more widely, including impact of the ‘Mayor’s Fares’ and feedback from the Mayor’s Big Bus Chat. Initial analysis shows the Mayor’s Fares has supported growth in bus patronage since its introduction, with 7.2million journeys having taken place between October and the end of December 2022, and saved passengers regionwide approx. £3.6m compared to what they would have been paying for bus travel before the scheme was introduced last autumn.
- 2.6.4 The Mayor’s Big Bus Chat was conducted over summer 2022 (between 11th July – 18th September) to engage the public on the content of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). This sought feedback on key topics including the BSIP’s main delivery areas, including the bus network, fares and ticketing, customer services and information, green and better vehicles, bus priority, current attitudes towards bus travel and personal characteristics.
- 2.6.5 The engagement consisted of a survey – including closed and open questions, 14 in-person ‘drop in’ sessions at locations region-wide, six ‘Tell Tracy’ Community engagement events, two online ‘drop in’ webinars, seven social media polls and online engagement via YourVoice – including Q&As, video stories and letters. Approximately, over 5,000 people were engaged with across all the activities.
- 2.6.6 There was an item presented regarding development of a new Mayor’s West Yorkshire Transport Plan, which sought approval for the development of the plan based on the emerging overarching narrative, vision and ambitions presented, and in line with the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan target of net zero by 2038.

- 2.6.7 A paper on the West Yorkshire plan was presented, providing the Committee with an update of the development of the plan, and its fit with the wider policy framework of the Combined Authority.
- 2.6.8 A report was presented covering an overview the Active Travel Fund 4 that has recently been launched, including the proposed approach to submitting a West Yorkshire bid. Delegated approval was also given to the Chief Executive, to approve the final bid in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, on behalf of the Committee.
- 2.6.9 And finally, a short update report was given to the Committee by Transport Policy, covering rail matters, and the recent Levelling up Fund 2 (LUF2) outcome announcement by Government, which the Combined Authority was successful in securing over £41m to deliver a package of schemes to deliver improvements to bus journey's and new active travel measures.

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.