

Report to: West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Date: 22 June 2023

Subject: **Assurance Framework post LEP integration update**

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 request the Combined Authority to review and approve the proposed revisions to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Assurance Framework required because of the changes to the LEP Constitution and governance arrangements following the approval of the LEP Integration Plan.
- 1.2 To update the Combined Authority on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Assurance Framework peer review.

2. Information

LEP Integration

- 2.1 In West Yorkshire, we have a long and proud history of the private and public sectors working in partnership to grow our economy and create a fairer, more prosperous and sustainable society. The Leeds City Region LEP has long been one of the most diverse and successful LEPs in the country, leading on the delivery of the £1bn Growth Deal.
- 2.2 The Government announced in its Spring Budget that Local Enterprise Partnerships would no longer be supported from 2024, and that the role they have previously played would be brought into Mayoral Combined Authorities. In our region, this means completing the process that has already been underway to integrate the LEP fully into the Mayoral Combined Authority.

- 2.3 Throughout the integration process all partners have been clear that the strong partnership between the public and private sector in West Yorkshire must be maintained. Whether the issue has been how to encourage more people to start and grow businesses, or to provide services to develop skills, how to improve transport in our region, or investment to tackle the climate emergency, the private and public sectors have sat side by side in shaping and taking decisions about our strategies and our investments. We want this model of deep partnership to continue, because we know that only by the private and public sectors working together can we make the change we want to see: to make our region globally competitive whilst also providing opportunity so that everyone can reach their potential.
- 2.4 The private sector will therefore remain represented within the Mayoral Combined Authority and its committees and will remain a fundamental partner in decision-making and delivery.
- 2.5 In July 2022 a LEP Integration Plan (IP) for West Yorkshire was submitted to government. A request for further information was made in September, which was provided and a final version of the LEP Integration Plan submitted. Government endorsed the IP on 20 December 2022. A formal letter confirming that government endorsed the IP was received on 17 January 2023.
- 2.6 The Combined Authority and LEP Board approved the changes to the LEP Constitution and governance arrangements at their meetings on 02 February and 08 March respectively.
- 2.7 The Assurance Framework now needs to reflect these changes and has therefore been revised and is attached at **Appendix A**. The key changes are listed below:
- References to LEP have been removed where the LEP functions have been integrated with the Combined Authority functions.
 - Sections 2.2, 2.3, 5.3, 5.4, Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 have been deleted.
 - Appendix 6 and any reference to it has been deleted as European funding has ceased.
- 2.8 The Assurance Framework has also been revised to reflect the recent changes required to governance arrangements in the light of the organisational evolution programme.
- 2.9 The Combined Authority are requested to approve proposed revisions.
- Proposed Peer Review
- 2.10 The Combined Authority at their meeting on 02 February supported a peer review of the Assurance Framework to be undertaken as follows. To date the following has been undertaken:

- The Assurance Frameworks from the other eight MCAs have been reviewed and compared against the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's.
- Meetings have been held with Greater Manchester (transport and non-transport), West Midlands, South Yorkshire and Liverpool to discuss how well their Assurance Framework is working and to learn lessons from them for the review of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Assurance Framework.
- Engagement with users of the Assurance Framework to determine from their perspective what is working well, what issues they have and what changes they would like to see. This has included a survey sent to approximately 1,000 individuals and a number of meetings / workshops within the Combined Authority and with partners.
- Proposed amendments to the Assurance Framework have been drafted and are being further reviewed in line with the revised Combined Authority directorate structure and operating model, approved in June 2023, to enable us to be more outcome focussed and deliver for the people of West Yorkshire.

2.11 Therefore, the peer review will not be complete for the Combined Authority's meeting on 22 June 2023. Once the further review has been concluded the proposed revisions to the Assurance Framework will be presented to the Combined Authority for approval. In the meantime we are continuing to work with our partners to ensure the Assurance Framework is as flexible and proportionate as possible.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

3.1 Climate emergency benefits and implications have been embedded throughout the Assurance Framework and the related templates and guidance documents to ensure that the climate emergency is considered by all schemes that come through Assurance Framework.

3.2 To strengthen decision making, a robust, quantifiable methodology for assessing all new schemes predicted carbon emissions / wider clean growth impacts has been developed (carbon impact assessment tool – CIA). The CIA has been included in all business case templates and approvals will not be sought until a CIA has been completed.

3.3 Climate emergency benefits and implications are required to be included in all project approvals reports which ensures that the business cases evidence their climate emergency impact.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

4.1 Inclusive growth implications have been embedded throughout the Assurance Framework and the related templates and guidance documents to ensure that inclusive growth is considered by all schemes that come through Assurance Framework.

- 4.2 Inclusive growth benefits and implications are required to be included in all project approvals reports which ensures that the business cases evidence their inclusive growth impact.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 Equality and diversity benefits and implications have been embedded throughout the Assurance Framework and the related templates and guidance documents to ensure that equality and diversity are considered by all schemes that come through Assurance Framework.
- 5.2 The recently revised and strengthened equality and diversity toolkit has been included in all business case templates and approvals will not be sought until an EqIA has been completed.
- 5.3 Equality and diversity benefits and implications are required to be included in all project approvals reports which ensures that the business cases evidence their equality and diversity impact (both directly and indirectly).

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 The Combined Authority and LEP Board approved the changes to the LEP Constitution and governance arrangements at their meetings on 02 February and 08 March respectively.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 The Combined Authority reviews and approves the proposed revisions to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Assurance Framework required because of the changes to the LEP Constitution and governance arrangements following the approval of the LEP Integration Plan.
- 10.2 To note the update on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Assurance Framework peer review.

11. Background Documents

- 11.1 None

12. Appendices

12.1 Appendix A: Assurance Framework 2023, version 2