



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
PLACE, REGENERATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2023 AT WELLINGTON HOUSE,
WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS, LS1 2DE**

Present:

Amir Hussain (Deputy Chair)	Private Sector (LEP Board)
Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw	Bradford Council
Councillor Jane Scullion	Calderdale Council
Councillor Michael Graham	Wakefield Council
Ben Aspinall	Private Sector Representative
Lisa Littlefair	Private Sector Representative
Tamsin Hart Jones	Advisory Representative (Homes England)

In Attendance:

Councillor Kayleigh Brooks	Leeds City Council
Yvonne Castle	Dementia Taskforce
Hannah Andrew	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Patricia Davey	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Helen Forman	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alison Gillespie	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Rebecca Greenwood	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Liz Hunter	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Thomas Newton	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Justin Wilson	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Janette Woodcock	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

37. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Denise Jeffrey (Chair), Cathy Scott (Kirklees) Helen Hayden (Leeds) Denise Craghill (York), Stephen Moore (Private Sector Representative) and Helen Lennon (Advisory Representative for the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership).

In the absence of the Chair, the meeting was chaired by the Deputy Chair, Amir Hussain.

38. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The Chair asked members to declare an interest if their organisation is involved in supporting other organisations to bid for funding, or if the organisation might benefit from any of the new programmes coming forward.

It was noted that Amir Hussain (Deputy Chair), Cllr Jane Scullion (Calderdale Council), Cllr Alex Ross Shaw (Bradford Council), Cllr Michael Graham (Wakefield Council), Ben Aspinall (Private Sector Representative), Lisa Littlefair (Private Sector Representative) and Tamsin Hart-Jones (Advisory Representative) declared an interest in the Dementia Ready Housing and Brownfield Housing Fund (BHF).

39. Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There was no exempt information requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

40. Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 November 2022

It was noted that the meeting of the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee held on 5 January 2023 was inquorate, therefore, the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2022 required approval.

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2022 be approved.

41. Chair's Update

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Jeffrey, the Director of Policing, Environment and Place updated the committee on the following two items.

Members were advised that there had been a consultation for the National Planning Policy Framework - working in partnership with district colleagues. It was noted that Councillor Jeffrey had agreed the response for the 2 March 2023 deadline.

The second item, which had been discussed with the Chair and Deputy Chair, was to thank Private Sector and Advisory Representatives for their contribution to the work of the Committee. The rich conversations and knowledge about items on the meeting agenda was greatly appreciated. In addition to this, members were invited to submit items on wider topics to the table for discussion.

42. Monitoring Indicators

The Committee considered a report and verbal update from the Economic Analysis Team Leader on the state of the region indicators and the Combined Authority's Spring Budget submission that had been updated since the last meeting in January 2023.

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. It was noted that the State of the Region 2022

assessed performance against around 40 indicators linked to the Combined Authority's key strategic priorities. The indicators most relevant to the committee had been updated since the last meeting in January and were outlined in the submitted report. It was reported that each indicator would be updated on their own schedules, meaning that updates to the committee would be provided on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee note the latest evidence on the region's performance regarding digital connectivity and the economic context that West Yorkshire was currently operating in and consider it as part of the decision-making process.

43. Strategic Place Partnership

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Housing at the West Yorkshire Combined Authority on the Strategic Place Partnership (SPP) Business Plan, which included the following.

- An update on the development of the SPP, which included the final draft (subject to the inclusion of case studies), attached at appendix 1 of the submitted report.
- An update on the Terms of Reference for the SPP Board, attached as appendix 2 to the submitted report, which had been developed in consultation with senior officers in partner councils and followed SPP approval.

The Strategic Place Partnership in West Yorkshire will be governed by the SPP board comprised of Homes England, Local Authority and Combined Authority partners alongside other key stakeholders from Government departments and the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership. The SPP Board will be responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Partnership and providing a forum for liaison between the parties involved in the SPP. SPP Board meetings will take place twice per year and will be supported by the Strategic Place Officer Group comprised on local authority housing growth and regeneration teams, Homes England and West Yorkshire Combined Authority officers as the operational group responsible for overseeing the SPP Delivery Plan. The Mayor will chair the SPP Board for the first year. The meetings will take place in private to allow for discussion of commercially sensitive projects to take place openly. The SPP Board will not be decision making in terms of investments as both the Combined Authority and Homes England have current governance structures in place to ensure transparency of investment decisions. The SPP Board will act in an advisory capacity giving oversight to the strategic objectives and focus area activity of the SPP.

It was noted that members felt the report was the very essence of what the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee is all about. They welcomed

the invitation to stakeholders, but wanted to reiterate it is essential to involve the private sector to be investment ready and is critical that the Business Plan is now in place. It was felt that there are challenges in some areas and opportunities in others. There needs to be a broader view taken and there is an enormous appetite from the private sector to be involved.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Strategic Place Partnership Business Plan be endorsed and recommended to the Combined Authority for approval.
- (iii) That the Terms of Reference for the Strategic Place Partnership (SPP) Board be endorsed and recommended to the Combined Authority for approval.

44. Programme Development - Creating Places and Accelerating Infrastructure

Members of the Committee considered an update report from the Head of Strategic Networks on the programme development for Investment Priority 3 (IP3) Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure and the proposed Employment Accelerator Programme Methodology.

Members were advised that it had been a long journey to get to this stage as the funding landscape from Government is bidding into different pots.

The Committee noted the programme development work and investment priority and considered the next steps for each programme, as outlined in the submitted report.

Members discussed the proposed Employment Accelerator Methodology and said it was about getting the pipeline into reality.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the programme development work Investment Priority 3 and next stages for each programme be noted.
- (iii) That the comments of the Committee on the proposed Accelerator Methodology be noted.

45. Dementia Taskforce Update

The Committee considered an update report on the Dementia-Ready Housing Task Force, its progress to date and proposed next steps.

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 that all older people's housing and related services were dementia friendly. The Dementia-ready Housing Task Force was established in March 2022 to deliver this commitment.

Members welcomed Ms Yvonne Castle from Johnnie Johnson Housing and a member of the Dementia Taskforce, who had been invited to provide a verbal update and presentation to the Committee on the work to date of the Dementia Taskforce.

Members discussed the contents of the submitted report and it was noted that anyone having experience of living with a family member with dementia recognises the shortcomings of houses, for example, negotiating steps and the layout of bathrooms. There is a market for dementia friendly care homes where amenities are on site, a hairdressers and café for example. The isolation of older people has become a chronic problem.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report and feedback from Committee members be noted.
- (ii) That Ms Yvonne Castle from Johnnie Johnson Housing and a member of the Dementia Taskforce be thanked for her presentation.

46. West Yorkshire Digital Blueprint and Local Digital Partnership

The Committee considered a report and verbal update on proposals to refresh the 2019 Digital Framework, which will be renamed Digital Blueprint, and the Creation of a Local Digital Partnership.

At the September 2022 LEP Board Meeting, members discussed the importance of a renewed focus on digital tech to support the region's ambitions.

It was noted that digital was a cross-cutting issue and that it had the potential to enable every person, every business and every place in the region. People required digital skills and good quality/affordable internet access to help them get the most out of their lives. All businesses needed to consider, invest in and develop their approach in a way that utilised the latest advancements and innovations. It was hoped that by doing so, all of the region's business community could be enabled to be more productive and, therefore, more likely to survive and thrive. Members were advised that our region also wanted to be the key location for high growth digital businesses to grow and invest in, as well as being recognised as a digitally connected place that could utilise the most of technology.

It was noted that these issues spanned social inclusion, place making, business support, skills, and inward investment. It was recognised, therefore, that responsibility did not fall under the remit of just one committee. How the organisation developed all of our digital work using the expertise, knowledge and connections of all committee members was a key consideration.

The scope of the new document was discussed, and it was felt the document was refreshing, highlighting quite significant changes in digital adoption. Members felt the ability of business and individuals to take advantage of Broadband was a critical determining factor.

Resolved: That the contents of the report and that feedback provided by members on the potential scope of the new Digital Blueprint be noted.

47. Project Approvals

Members considered a report and verbal update on proposals for the progression of schemes through the Combined Authority's assurance process in line with the organisation's Assurance Framework. Further details on the schemes were included in the submitted report.

In addition to the full scheme approval for this report which members discussed and because of the time lapse between this meeting and the next on 1 June, it was noted that in order to maintain programme delivery and spend targets, it was agreed that delegation would be given to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive to approve where full scheme approval was required before 30 June 2023. Included in such were the following Brownfield Housing Programme schemes.

- St Cecilia Street, Leeds
- Canal 30, Bradford
- Rushton Avenue, Bradford
- Sky Gardens/Midlands Mills, Leeds
- Parkwood Mills, Kirklees

The Committee was provided with a verbal update on the Brownfield Housing Fund Railway Street scheme. The Committee was asked to approve the scheme outlined in the submitted report, subject to the conditions set by the Programme Appraisal Team which members discussed and approved.

Resolved:

- (i) It was agreed that where full scheme approval was required before 30 June 2023, delegation to the Chief Executive would be awarded due to expedience of delivery.
- (iii) That, subject to the conditions set by the Programme Appraisal Team, the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee approve the following:-
 - (a) The BHF Railway Street scheme proceed through to decision point 4 (full business case) and work to commence on activity 5 (delivery).
 - (b) Approval given to the Combined Authority's contribution of £1,500,000. The total scheme value is £11,842,757.

- (c) The Combined Authority enter into a funding agreement with 54North Homes for expenditure of up to £1,500,000.
- (d) Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report. This would be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the report.