

The logo for West Yorkshire Combined Authority features a large, stylized 'W' shape composed of three overlapping curved segments in shades of teal and blue. The text 'West Yorkshire' is written in a bold, dark teal font, with 'Combined Authority' in a smaller, lighter teal font below it.

**West
Yorkshire**
Combined
Authority

**Leeds City Region draft Digital
Framework outcomes**

1. Digital opportunities for all businesses

Ambition: ‘Our future prosperity and success depends on ensuring all our businesses have the opportunities to access and exploit the best digital technology and data to drive innovation and productivity. We will ensure businesses have the desire, knowledge and means to access opportunities from this new technology, and are able to take advantage of the specific opportunities from data.’

Principle: To stimulate, encourage and enable the business leadership, behaviour changes and cultural shift needed to embrace the 4th industrial revolution.

Actions:

- Build upon existing strengths and capabilities (health and medtech) and sectors where the opportunity is significant (manufacturing), using the Med-tech SIA as proof of concept to demonstrate what can be achieved when industry, academia and government work collaboratively.
- Take forward the idea of a sector deal around Industrial Digitalisation, focused around med-tech and textiles
- Working closely with the Digital Catapult, explore the recommendations emerging from ‘The future of UK Manufacturing report’ particularly around ‘objective brokerage’ and developing relevant case studies for SMEs.
- Fully capitalise on the immediate opportunities around industrial manufacturing, particularly around supply chains
- Pilot the delivery of a package of innovative support to target a cohort of businesses who have not yet embraced the 4th Industrial Revolution.
- Consider what interventions are necessary to support those businesses who have not yet embraced the 3rd Industrial Revolution, particularly the role of ‘trusted suppliers’ in the process.
- Linking in with the productivity revolution work as part of the Industrial Strategy focusing on business culture and leadership
- Explore lessons learnt and opportunities to expand and build on the successful Digital Enterprise Programme

Potential funding opportunities to support this include: ESIF; shared prosperity fund; Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund; Sector Deals; Innovate UK; corporate sponsorship etc

2. Digital skills for all

Ambition: 'We will ensure everyone in the City Region has the opportunity to develop the digital skills they need to flourish in the new digital economy'

Principle: To develop an evolving pipeline for digital skills to meet the needs of businesses and citizens:

- Inclusion / basic skills: Ensure everyone has basic digital capability to ensure no one is excluded from opportunities because of a lack of skills and can operate in a digital society.
- General skills: Look at opportunities for improving outcomes for those who have basic digital skills, but lack the confidence and knowledge to make the most of the digital economy, whether at work or beyond.
- Advanced skills: Ensure LCR develops, attracts and retains the talent needed for higher skilled roles (E.g. coding).

Actions:

- Work with LA partners to ensure that the ubiquity of future technologies does not exacerbate the divide between the haves and have nots and instead seeks to reduce inequality.
- Work with partners (e.g. Barclays Digital Eagles) and existing initiatives to support citizens with digital skills
- Promote digital apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships
- Develop a business-sponsored campaign to raise awareness of LCR digital careers including supporting those people displaced by digital technologies.
- Work closely with schools, FE, HEI (training providers) and employers to ensure we develop talent with the skills businesses need both now and in the future and ensure programmes/courses all have some element of digital skills training included.
- Attracting talent and skills (including large employers) to relocate to LCR.

Potential funding opportunities to support this include: ESIF; shared prosperity fund; Digital Skills Partnership etc

3. The digital sector to service the rest

Ambition: ‘To become a City Region leader of national significance and a major player within the Northern Powerhouse through our approach to growing our digital technology cluster and our optimum mix of big city/smaller towns and hidden gems, making LCR the best place to start and grow a digital technology business.’

Principle: To grow the ecosystem of digital tech businesses across the City Region as suppliers to the rest of the world.

Actions:

- Explore opportunities to establish a private sector led Leeds City Region membership Digital body to ensure the sector has a voice within and beyond the City Region.
- Develop a detailed understanding of the needs and issues and specific support required for the digital sector including the role of large businesses.
- Explore opportunities to expand Leeds Digital Festival across the City Region
- Work closely with LA partners to ensure the conditions exist to allow all digital tech companies (from infrastructure businesses to service businesses all the way through to communications providers) to thrive and flourish across the City Region, strengthening the buzz of the ecosystem and playing to individual areas distinctive strengths. We will focus particularly on:
 - Finance: ensuring the range of finance available to digital tech companies is simple to navigate and accessible,
 - Business support: work with the sector to ensure support is available for digital tech companies to access, sufficiently tailored to specific digital/tech needs, e.g. accelerators,
 - Skills and access to talent
- Develop a soft landing package for scale up tech firms new to the City Region to boost and grow the cluster.
- Develop a marketing campaign that specifically raises the profile and visibility of the digital tech sector for both a UK and international investor audience
- Work closer with Tech UK (formerly Tech North) as part of their new Regional Hubs model
- Ensure as part of work to progress the smart region outcome, local digital businesses have the opportunity to contribute and benefit.

Potential funding opportunities to support this include: Innovate UK; VC’s; ESIF; shared prosperity fund; corporate backed accelerators/ sponsorship etc

4. World class digital infrastructure

Ambition ‘To have a globally competitive and best in UK digital infrastructure delivered through both public and private investment, stimulated by activities to upskill business, employees and citizens to exploit and maximise impact, creating an environment which encourages further investment in infrastructure, from businesses and inward investors.’

Principle: The development of the essential underlying enabling infrastructure across the City Region.

Actions:

- Invest in world class connectivity through fibre, mobile, wireless and new technologies, to homes, businesses, social housing, public spaces and public transport where market failure prevails (BDUK, LFFN etc.) and working in collaboration with Network rail, Police and NHS.
- Develop a stronger collective voice as a City Region around digital infrastructure issue, leveraging assets and agreeing shared priorities.
- Develop a policy statement for LA to take advantage of opportunities to re-use existing public sector assets to deliver improved connectivity, including the use of street furniture and existing ducting.
- Ensure the City Region digital infrastructure ambitions and activities align with – and support- the other 4 outcomes
- Work with private providers to encourage the roll out of full fibre, particularly around new housing developments and business parks
- Support the development of world class ‘connectivity’ assets e.g. data centres, internet exchanges IoT networks etc.
- Ensure the conditions are in place to encourage the deployment of smart IoT technologies, e.g. through working through local authority planning, highways depts. Etc.
- Develop a regional response to the opportunities that 5G will bring, particularly around demonstrable health use cases.
- Ensure that all spatial priority areas will include consideration of digital infrastructure requirements and develop better intelligence about the networks

Potential funding opportunities to support this include: BDUK, DCMS; private providers; ERDF; Innovate UK; Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund etc

5. The Smart Region

Ambition: ‘We will adopt a citizen first approach to ‘smart city thinking’, continuing to develop our approach as a City Region which proactively embraces and exploits technology and data effectively and intelligently to improve outcomes for all citizens across LCR.’

Principle: To create the culture in which we actively embrace new technologies and use data to solve our biggest problems and create new economic opportunities.

Actions:

- Integrating this ambition into all district strategies and throughout the LCR Local Inclusive Industrial Strategy – adopting a ‘Region first’ approach.
- Collaborating with districts to develop skills and capacity within local government to deliver at scale smart city projects and supporting each authority to have a smart cities champion
- Securing buy in and a cultural shift from public sector partners to embrace smart region approaches by focusing on the outcomes this approach can achieve.
- Leading by example as a public authority particularly through smarter transport interventions and procurement practices, working where relevant with TfN and others.
- Supporting a thriving innovation and tech eco-system particularly working closely with the Digital Catapult Yorkshire (see priority 3)
- Seeking funding and resources to develop bottom up, scalable smart city solutions which will help achieve our ambition, eg around energy and transport objectives.
- Work with key players in this space to encourage a smarter city region, including ODI North and Data Mill North.
- Be open for innovation - work with partners to offer opportunities as a testbed city or demonstrator town or district and allowing SME’s to innovatively test (pilot) market opportunity and advance smart city thinking.
- WYCA to lead by example in sharing its data as standard.

Potential funding opportunities to support this include: ESIF; Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund; Local authority / public sector procurement; DfT etc