

## Successful Business Rate Pool bids related to Inclusive Growth

Through the 2018/19 Business Rate Pool, funding has recently been approved for projects which specifically aimed at driving inclusive growth across West Yorkshire and York. One potential focus of the Panel's work could be to identify how best support these projects and potentially evaluate their outcomes.

These projects, of which some will be delivered across the City Region and some within specific districts, include:

**West Yorkshire wide Inclusive Growth bids** have been awarded a total of £2,070,000 and include:

- a) A **skills** related application which covers three areas: **1) Apprenticeships/ Employment Hubs**; **2) Raising poverty of aspiration** and **3) Poverty proofing the school day**.
- **1) The Apprenticeships / Employment Hubs (£1,350,000)** project will strengthen links between schools and businesses and promote apprenticeships in schools targeted at disadvantaged groups.
  - **2) Raising poverty of aspirations (£400,000)**: This project will complement the ongoing work of the enterprise coordinators. A pilot will be conducted at schools with high numbers of disadvantaged pupils. Funding will be used to employ a consultant to develop a funding pot which will support an increase in activity to raise aspirations amongst disadvantaged pupils by strengthening engagement with employers, widening pupils experiences of jobs beyond their home communities and engagement with young role models working in priority sectors, apprenticeships etc. Schools in disadvantaged areas will be able to apply for funding (from Sept 2018), with criteria of how schools can apply being developed by the initial phase of the project.
  - **3) Poverty proofing the school day (£50,000)** – The project aims to pilot approaches to poverty proof the school day by supporting schools to identify and overcome the barriers to learning that children and young people from families with less financial resources face. This work will link in with the work that Wakefield Council is already doing and is anticipated to go above and beyond what districts are already doing to date. There is a need to identify how the project will fit with academy schools and their sometimes different approach to take-in and attainment and how the Core Group will be able to support schools locally with applications and to ensure their buy-in.
- b) **Digital infrastructure (£200,000)** – providing full fibre infrastructure to locations and residents that are hardest to reach, unlikely to receive superfast broadband via commercial investment in the future and thus at greater risk of digital exclusion.
- c) **Inclusive growth External Challenge (£70,000)** – This project aims to establish a consultant role to support the Combined Authority / the LEP and local partner councils by providing independent advice and expertise around the City Region's

approach to informing and embedding inclusive growth across local strategies, policies and programmes.

- **District related Inclusive Growth bids that are funded through the pool:**

- a) Bradford – Health and Social Care ‘One Workforce’ (£1m) will address issues in the health and social care workforce in Bradford District by:
- Co-ordinated recruitment under the brand Bradford Health/Bradford Social Care
  - Inclusive community recruitment, readiness for and entry into work
  - Development of a Health and Care Academy providing in-work career progression programmes
- b) Calderdale – ‘Delivering Inclusive Growth in Calderdale’ (£1m) to enable anchor institutions to re-evaluate their local spend and to aim spending at a very defined area of deprivation.
- c) Kirklees – All Kirklees bids were successful, including:
- ‘Investment Programme’ (£350,000) to allow people to be in the right place to take up employment – This project to pursue work across a number of areas in Business and Skills including:
    - Inward Investment - selling the ‘story of Kirklees’ to businesses and individuals, providing a coherent self-service and targeted support offer for start-ups, scale-ups and high growth businesses and the reasons why Kirklees is the place to work, live and play.
    - Good Growth through Planning, Procurement and Supply Chains/Collaboration Networks, working to develop the model and approach to signposting and monitoring good growth and the Kirklees £ to maximise the reach of investment in the District to those who most need it most.
    - Skills Accelerator Pilot –stimulate demand for skills associated with increasing productivity in firms, automations and succession planning linked to the ageing workforce and removal of the default retirement age.
    - Digital Inclusion -undertake a needs assessment which builds upon the Tech Partnership Study. This highlighted that Kirklees is rated as ‘High’ for likelihood of Digital Exclusion.
- d) Leeds ‘Expansion of digital engagement’ - This project will look to build on the work already carried out by Leeds City Council on improving digital skills and access to technology. It will expand the council’s 100% DIGITAL LEEDS and free Wi-Fi programmes and provide new access to digital screens in the city centre. It primarily supports the Inclusive Growth theme which has a strong digital element.
- e) Wakefield – Inclusive Growth is part of the ‘Waterfront’ bid which has been granted funding which sets out to deliver new events and exhibition space at Wakefield Waterfront as part of the Yorkshire.

- f) York: 'York City Brand' - This project will develop a shared narrative and brand for York, our economic aspirations and York's relationship with LCR, supported with 3D visualisations of key developments and a strategic study to identify potential inward investment locations based on changes to land-use as the retail economy continues to adapt to online channels. The three outcomes will be:
- A shared brand and approach with significant buy in from York stakeholders,
  - An immersive technology model of key sites including Castle Gateway, York Central and the city centre, and
  - A study considering the longer term impacts of changes in retailing, looking at out-of-town retail parks and their long term use as a potential source of inward investment sites.

The full list of approved bids can be found on the following link (see page 15 and 16 for more details):

[https://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Business%20Rates%20Joint%20Committee%20-%202013%20July%202018%20\(Public%20Pack\).pdf](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Business%20Rates%20Joint%20Committee%20-%202013%20July%202018%20(Public%20Pack).pdf)