

**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 14 September 2018

**Subject:** "West Yorkshire... and Beyond - Calderdale Council's Contribution to the Combined Authority"

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## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To inform the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the background, findings and recommendations of a scrutiny review conducted by Calderdale Council's Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board into Calderdale Council's engagement and relationship with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, which will be presented to the Committee at the meeting.

## **2. Information**

- 2.1 In October 2017, the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Calderdale Council's three scrutiny boards (and Flood Scrutiny Panel) agreed to undertake a detailed scrutiny review of Calderdale Council's engagement and relationship with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Responsibility for the review was assigned to the Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board.
- 2.3 The review group's evidence gathering was concluded on 28 February 2018 and the final report was finalised, presented and endorsed by Calderdale's Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board at its 25 April 2018 meeting.
- 2.4 A summary of the review's recommendations that relate to the Combined Authority are outlined in **Appendix 1**. The full final report entitled "West Yorkshire... and Beyond - Calderdale Council's Contribution to the Combined Authority" detailing the review's detailed findings and recommendations is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.5 The review contained one formal recommendation to the Combined Authority relating to scrutiny, recommending that the Combined Authority 'take the opportunity of the appointment of a scrutiny officer to review the effectiveness of their scrutiny arrangements'. A dedicated statutory scrutiny officer was appointed in May 2018 and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved to

direct the Scrutiny Officer to begin a review of current scrutiny arrangements at its last meeting on 13 July 2018.

- 2.6 It should be noted that the governance structure diagram highlighted in the final report (under finding 4 in **Appendix 1**) was not provided by the Combined Authority and does not represent the formal decision making or committee structure of the Combined Authority – but is a helpful aid to represent the interface between Calderdale members and officers with the Combined Authority. A copy of the Combined Authority's current committee and governance structure provided by the Combined Authority's Head of Legal and Governance Services is attached at **Appendix 3**.
- 2.7 On 3 May 2018 the Chair of the Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board wrote to the Combined Authority's Managing Director presenting the review's findings and recommendations and asking for a response. The Chairs of the Combined Authority, Transport Committee, and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee also received copies of this letter. The letter is attached at **Appendix 4**.
- 2.8 At the 13 July 2018 meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed with the Chair's suggestion to invite Councillor Jenny Lynn to present the review's findings and recommendations to the Committee. Councillor Lynn also met with the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Combined Authority's Director of Resources (on behalf of the Managing Director) in July and August 2018 respectively to discuss the findings.
- 2.9 The Calderdale Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board expect a formal response from the Calderdale cabinet to their recommendations in the coming months and will share the full cabinet response with this Committee when it is published.
- 2.10 The Combined Authority's Managing Director intends to respond to the letter and the review's recommendations after the Calderdale cabinet formally responds and after the review's findings and recommendations have been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

### **5. Staffing Implications**

- 5.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

## **6. External Consultees**

6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

## **7. Recommendations**

7.1 That the findings of the review and the recommendations be noted.

## **8. Background Documents**

[Scrutiny Review Report – Getting the most for Calderdale from the City Region and its findings and recommendations](#). Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board (Calderdale Council). 25 April 2018.

## **9. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Summary of recommendations relating to the Combined Authority

Appendix 2 – Full report: "West Yorkshire... and Beyond - Calderdale Council's Contribution to the Combined Authority"

Appendix 3 – West Yorkshire Combined Authority / Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Governance Structure (July 2018)

Appendix 4 – Letter from the Chair of the Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board to the Combined Authority's Managing Director