
Report to: Transport Committee

Date: 9 November 2018

Subject: **West Yorkshire Combined Authority Response to Joseph Rowntree Report**

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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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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:	

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) report Tackling Transport-Related Barriers to Employment in Low Income Neighbourhoods was published in July 2018. The JRF report can be accessed at: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/tackling-transport-related-barriers-employment-low-income-neighbourhoods>.
- 1.2 Joseph Rowntree Foundation have been invited to the Transport Committee to present the findings of their report.

2. Information

- 2.1 The report considers transport to be a key barrier to employment for many residents living in low-income neighbourhoods. Transport issues are intimately related to the nature and location of employment. The prospect of poorly paid and insecure work limits the range of areas where individuals consider looking for work. This is sometimes compounded by the inaccessibility of jobs that have become increasingly dispersed across city regions. The report considers public transport systems to have not accommodated this changing geography of employment.

Inclusive Growth

- 2.2 Addressing the issues that are raised in the Joseph Rowntree Foundation report are key to ensuring that there is inclusive growth.
- 2.3 In August 2017, the LEP Board and West Yorkshire Combined Authority agreed, in principle, to expand the City Region's policy range. This recognised that, while the existing Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) drives vital activity to deliver new jobs and homes, there are broader opportunities (e.g. the role of transport and connectivity) and issues that would benefit from a more comprehensive and agile approach.
- 2.4 The LEP Board in January 2018, agreed to work towards a broader policy framework where partners agree to work together on a range of topics (e.g. transport, potentially new aspects of tackling disadvantage in health, culture) to drive inclusive growth. Partners recognised that prevailing economic conditions are relatively strong (although by far from working in the interests of all), which provides the chance to address the City Region's structural weaknesses (including barriers in relation to transport) that are often the cause of inequality, poverty and lack of opportunity.
- 2.5 The Combined Authority is due to undertake a household survey, which will establish an evidence base about the key challenges residents. The household survey has been informed by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation Report. This will in the future inform specific inclusive growth activities.

West Yorkshire Bus Network

- 2.6 There are also ongoing work streams being delivered with the major bus operators through Bus 18 and Connecting Leeds, which are working towards addressing some of transport challenges highlighted by the report.
- 2.7 The Combined Authority is undertaking a review of the West Yorkshire bus network. This will highlight locations where the network no longer connects the population with employment centres in the most efficient way. The bus network review is being undertaken for 2019, 2024 and 2033. The commission will take into account the whole bus service offer, both commercial and tendered services, reflect anticipated changes in land use, socio-demographics of the region and major infrastructure interventions.
- 2.8 The Combined Authority is also looking to work with the bus operators to facilitate trials of demand responsive services to understand likely viability and implementation.

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 There are no recommendations directly arising from this report.

8. Background Documents

8.1. The JRF report can be accessed at <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/tackling-transport-related-barriers-employment-low-income-neighbourhoods>.

9. Appendices

None