
Report to: Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel

Date: 4 December 2018

Subject: **Health and Healthy Streets**

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1. Purpose of this report

1.1 To provide members with:

- An overview of progress in considering some of the challenges facing the Leeds City Region in relation to keeping people healthy and
- A presentation on, and options for, supporting early work on the proposed Healthy Streets initiative.

2. Information

Context

- 2.1 Members identified at their first meeting in September that economic growth and people's living standards are intrinsically linked to their health and that preventing ill-health - with the help of employers and public health partners - is therefore considered a crucial element of promoting more inclusive growth. Health was also discussed at the Panel's workshop in November, a summary of which is included at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 This focus on prevention is in line with emerging national policy set out in the document "Prevention is better than cure", published in November, which is government's vision for:
- Stopping health problems from arising in the first place; and
 - Supporting people to manage their health problems when they do arise.
- 2.3 Attendees at the Panel's workshop further considered the evidence base, a number of the key health challenges facing the City Region, and the opportunities for partners to take a leadership role on related interventions, particularly to improve outcomes in our most disadvantaged communities.

One such opportunity - identified as a potential early win project - was the proposed 'Healthy Streets' Initiative, which is considered further below.

2.4 Subject to members' agreement, future Panel meetings could consider other key health issues and opportunities, such as:

- Mental health.
- First 1000 days.
- Social prescribing, and
- Progress being made in the integration of the local health and care system, including via the regional health partnership.

Healthy Streets

2.5 The West Yorkshire Transport Strategy, adopted by the Combined Authority and partners in 2017, includes policies that promote the creation of high quality places for people, and proposes investments that enhance connectivity and also better manage the adverse impacts of traffic to improve personal safety, reduce air pollution and carbon emissions, and provide good environments that are more conducive to social interaction and physical activities such as walking and cycling.

2.6 A 'Healthy Streets' approach offers one such way to coordinate the policies and actions of the Combined Authority and partner councils to promote healthy places and active people. Healthy Streets provides a framework for putting people and their health at the heart of improving existing transport networks and places, and also in new development. The approach to Healthy Streets is becoming well-established, with The London Mayor developing and championing an approach which is being delivered successfully in partnership with London Boroughs.

2.7 The Combined Authority's Transport Committee is currently overseeing work to develop the partners' plans to spend the Integrated Transport Block grant for the next three years from 2019/20 to 21/22. The Committee wish to see Healthy Streets 'demonstration projects' funded and delivered. The current working assumption is that there could be one demonstration project in each of the five West Yorkshire districts, funded to the value of £1million each. A verbal update will be provided on progress made by officers in identifying potential demonstrator projects.

2.8 A presentation will also be provided at the meeting to offer an overview to members of London's methodology, some examples of delivery in the Capital, and quantified impacts and lessons learnt, and how these might be translated to West Yorkshire demonstration projects. Example of interventions that would contribute to a regional Healthy Streets approach could include:

- Street enhancements with shade, greenery, seating and shelter.
- Designing in slower vehicle speeds.
- Holding events and activities that encourage everyone out to shop, play and chat, including for example temporary closure of streets to cars.

- Ensuring streets have enough safe space for walking, cycling and public transport.

- 2.9 The intention of the proposed demonstration projects is to deliver exemplar schemes that showcase what can be achieved by communities and various delivery agencies working together, and also to adapt and refine approaches for broader roll-out across the City Region, with a particular focus on our Inclusive Growth Corridors being identified through the HS2 Growth and Connectivity strategy work streams.
- 2.10 A Healthy Streets approach would be led and delivered by local highway authorities, with support of others including the Combined Authority, Public Health England and other partnerships, including community and business involvement.
- 2.11 Because the ambition of the West Yorkshire Healthy Streets initiative extends far beyond transport matters and directly into public health, inclusive growth and place making agendas, there is an opportunity for members to consider the possible role of the Panel in supporting the demonstrator projects. Subject to members' views, the Panel's role could include one or more of the following:
- Taking a “watching brief” role to monitor and influence the development and delivery of the demonstrator projects, to challenge delivery partners to identify and adapt best practice arising from the projects to then ‘mainstream’;
 - Subject to considering the capacity and resource implications, a more “hands on” involvement eg to help shape the overall regional Healthy Streets approach. In consultation with the Panel Chair and lead Chief Executive, officers could explore any immediate funding opportunities, such as from the Business Rates Pool, to accelerate demonstrators, for example to undertake some up front work to develop the methodology so that it delivers maximum social value, such as by drawing on expert advice provided to the Mayor of London.
 - Perhaps more in the medium term, to take on a visible championing role to secure and strengthen wider partnerships, secure supplementary match-funding (such as from the government's new Future High Streets Fund), align and coordinate with other priorities (e.g. Good Work interventions), in order to maximise inclusive growth outcomes.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Financial implications as set out in 2.7 of the report.

4. Legal Implications

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

5. Staffing Implications

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

6. External Consultees

6.1 There are no implications directly arising from this report.

7. Recommendations

7.1 That the Panel discusses the opportunities around health, and in particular the proposed regional Healthy Streets initiative, and provides a steer on the Panel's preferred role in shaping the regional approach.

8. Background Documents

8.1 None

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Workshop report on Health