

**Director and Author:** Ben Still, Managing Director



**Report to:** West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Date:** 14 December 2017

**Subject:** Inclusive Growth Progress in the Leeds City Region

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<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

- 1.1 To agree WYCA funding for the last 6 months of the secondment for the Project Director for Inclusive Growth.

## 2 Information

- 2.1 At the WYCA meeting held in December 2016 a project to spearhead inclusive growth and make it a key cross cutting policy for Leeds City Region was initiated. It was led by the nominated lead chief executive for inclusive growth (the Chief Executive of Bradford MBC) and a seconded Project Director for Inclusive Growth, who acted on behalf of all partner authorities.
- 2.2 Since that time some key milestones have been achieved:
- A first phase scoping work programme has been completed, which has identified key themes of work.
  - Key projects have been started, in particular around ‘anchor institutions’ (large organisations that can act as cornerstones of best practice on encouraging inclusive growth), developing poverty standards and supporting low paid workers.
  - An Inclusive Growth steering group was created, now chaired by the Leader of Kirklees, and including representatives from business, the third sector, unions, local authorities and faith groups. This coordinates and drives the inclusive growth workstreams. The Authority has agreed for a proposal to come forward to turn this group into a full committee of WYCA.

- A ‘virtual’ team has been brought together, involving officers from LCR local authorities, plus support from consultants and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.
- 2.3 Moreover, a major city region conference on inclusive growth was held at Bradford College, centred on the RSA report in Inclusive Growth, and bringing national media and professional attention on the work of inclusive growth in the city region, and the ambition to tackle long term deprivation and structural economic issues.
- 2.4 A second work programme is now in development, including four main strands of work, co-ordinated by the Inclusive Growth Steering Group:
- Inclusive Growth objectives are being incorporated into the LCR strategy and policy framework, in particular into the emerging ‘Local Inclusive Industrial Strategy’ which will (ultimately) replace the LCR Strategic Economic Plan.
  - Existing WYCA/LEP programmes are being flexed (or proposed to be flexed) where appropriate in order to (1) benefit areas of deprivation, (2) the lowest paid, (3) sectors in which larger numbers of low paid workers are present. A paper proposing such changes will be brought to a future meeting of the authority.
  - New programmes are being developed focused on particular cohorts of people (such as those with in-work poverty) or on offering support to early years education (in order to improve long term life chances). A programme on targeting key large employers (so called ‘anchor institutions’) to set down key standards and commitments to inclusive growth is also underway. A paper proposing new programmes will be brought to a future meeting of the authority.
  - Developing common standards of good practice across the West Yorkshire authorities, and sharing good work to drive up inclusive growth within the policies of all West Yorkshire public authorities.
- 2.5 The overall objective being to incorporate inclusive growth into every aspect of the work of Leeds City Region, rather than having it as a ‘stand-alone’ issue.
- 2.6 Specific activities for the next six months are set out in **Appendix 1**, as the review identified modifications and specific targeting of resources, in particular:
- Identifying the key indicators and objectives of success for inclusive growth (especially as inclusive growth is a long term programme of structure change, and hence not easily amenable to short term indicators);
  - Developing the specific programmes in the light of the key indicators;
  - Securing sufficient funding sources for a truly radical programme (which links to wider issues on devolution deals and fiscal devolution).

- 2.7 The Project Director was seconded from Kirklees to WYCA, which commenced on 18/11/16 and runs until 14/05/18. WYCA approval is now sought for the funding of the secondment by WYCA for the remaining six month period, at a cost of £59.4k.
- 2.8 Reviews of the work were held at 3, 6 months and a further review at 9 months ahead of submission of this paper. This concluded that the work is progressing well and in particular has achieved the outputs set out in section 2.2 above which would not have been possible without the dedicated resource and focus of the Inclusive Growth Director. The next steps set out above were also identified.
- 2.9 As a result there is strong merit in funding the remaining 6 months of the secondment to deal with the three work streams and related gaps outlined above.
- 2.10 A further paper will be brought in 2018 outlining appropriate next steps for resourcing after the secondment ends, given, as set out above, that this is a long term programme both to mainstream the programmes and bring about the desired outcomes.

### **3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 Provision for this secondment has been made in WYCA's budget.

### **4 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 None from this paper.

### **5 Staffing Implications**

- 5.1 WYCA's policy and strategy team has configured to provide supporting resource for the Project Director. There are no employment implications for WYCA from this paper.

### **6 External Consultees**

- 6.1 Chief Executive of City of Bradford Metropolitan Council.

### **7 Recommendations**

- 7.1 That the Authority notes the work accomplished to date and approves the funding of a secondment by WYCA for six months until 14 May 2018.

### **8 Background Documents**

None.