

**Report of Chief Executive**

**Report to Full Council**

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**Subject: Devolution**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. This report is intended to update Members on matters in the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA).
2. The main issues described in this report are from the latest public WYCA meeting in July.

**Recommendations**

3. Members are asked to consider the content of this paper and on action that might be needed from Leeds City Council as a result.

## **Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report is intended to update Members on matters in the Leeds City Region LEP and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.
- 1.2 Specifically this report provides details of the latest public combined authority meeting in July.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 Following cross party agreement this is the second report to Full Council to provide an update to Members on the work of the WYCA and Leeds City Region LEP.
- 2.2 The March devolution deal to the WYCA gave a number of functional powers on transport, skills, business support and housing, but was seen very much as being a first step deal and the start of the process. Since then, a deadline was set by George Osborne of the 4<sup>th</sup> September for any city region to submit formal, fiscally neutral proposals and an agreed geography for a devolution deal to the Treasury. The WYCA has been working with other partner authorities to draw up proposals for a further devolution deal which has been submitted to the Treasury (please see annex 1: Leeds City Region devolution submission).
- 2.3 As well as devolution, the following items were discussed at the Combined Authority meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July.
  - 2.3.1 *Growth Deal projects*

This item was to update on projects under the Leeds City Region Growth Deal and also to approve funding of up to £4.4m for housing schemes in Kirklees and Leeds (Bath Road) and support for the Huddersfield Incubation & Innovation Programme.
  - 2.3.2 *West Yorkshire Young Persons' Concessionary Travel Scheme*

The Combined Authority agreed that, from November, half-fare bus and train travel will be extended to all 16 to 18 year-olds living in West Yorkshire. The change supports WYCA's ambition to increase young people's access to apprenticeships and training. This extension will be managed within existing resources of the Combined Authority.
  - 2.3.3 *Apprenticeship Grants for Employers (AGE)*

The meeting approved the start of Apprenticeship Grants for Employers (AGE) as August 2015, being available to businesses with up to 250 employees within the West Yorkshire Combined Authority areas of West Yorkshire and York. Core grants will be £1,200 (up to 3 per business) with a further £800 available to organisations that support the LEPs skills priorities, offer apprenticeships in sectors where skill shortages exist and support the LEP's work with the Joseph Rowntree Trust on low-wages.
  - 2.3.4 *Budgets for LEP Projects and Programmes*

WYCA approved the transfer of project budgets of almost £900,000 for the Green Deal Communities Fund, £2.76m for Tackling Long Term Youth Unemployment and almost £11m for the Growing Places Fund from Leeds City Council, as part of the formal transfer of the LEP to WYCA.

### **2.3.5 *Devolution***

A verbal update was given, confirming that a list of 27 'asks' was submitted to Government for discussion with ministers and civil servants. Discussions with neighbouring authorities were taking place over the footprint of any potential deal.

### **2.3.6 *Review of WYCA and LEP roles in strategic planning***

The meeting referred the Leeds City Region Planning Portfolios Board's 36 recommendations back to districts for further consideration before they are brought back to the Combined Authority at a later date for consideration and approval.

## **3 Corporate Considerations**

### **3.1 Consultation and Engagement**

As this report is providing an update from a WYCA meeting, there hasn't been any specific consultation and engagement.

### **3.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

There are no specific implications for this report.

### **3.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan**

The Best Council Plan priorities refer to aspects of the WYCA work and are undertaken in that context.

### **3.4 Resources and value for money**

There are no specific implications for this report.

### **3.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

### **3.6 Risk Management**

There are no specific implications for this report.

## **4 Recommendations**

4.1 Members are asked to consider the content of this paper and action that might be needed from Leeds City Council as a result.

## **5 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

5.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.