

**Report of Chief Executive**

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**Report to Full Council**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**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

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**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**

1. Members are asked to consider the content of this paper and 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 seventh report to Full Council to provide an update to Members on the work of the WYCA and Leeds City Region LEP.
- 2.2 Devolution remains a central discussion for the city region and announcements have been made elsewhere of deals agreed with central Government and ongoing processes to implement the governance and structures for each area. The change of national government and the effect this will have on the progress and process of devolution are still being understood, however the WYCA continue to be in negotiations regarding the freedoms and flexibilities of a possible deal that would build on those previously concluded, most recently in March 2015.

## **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1 As well as devolution, the following items were among those discussed at the Combined Authority meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

### **3.2 Implications of the referendum on EU membership**

The Combined Authority discussed the implications to WYCA of the European Union membership referendum. The meeting was presented with a report that set out the joint West Yorkshire / Leeds City Region plan; where partners are prepared to respond to a range of heightened risks and emerging opportunities in the context of strong local approaches, led by each Council. The report also gave some initial thoughts to the implications and opportunities across the following areas:

- Principal economic risks
- Trade and Investment impact
- Business growth and access to funding
- Skills and employment effects
- Implications for direct EU investment
- Devolution
- Transport, housing and energy infrastructure
- Public Services

### **3.3 Leeds City Region Growth Deal 3 and Large Local Major Schemes Bids**

This item provided an update on City Region bids for additional Growth Deal funding and for Large Local Major Scheme funding that has been agreed by the LEP Board and was submitted to government at the end of July. £1.8bn of additional Growth Deal funding is available and £475m from Department for Transport for large local transport schemes.

The bid for Growth Deal funding is for an additional £109m, with the aim of:

- accelerating development through integrated infrastructure provision within a number of the City Region's Spatial Priority Areas, notably our Enterprise Zones and North Kirklees Growth Zone and Leeds South Bank;
- embedding economic and business resilience through targeted investments in flood, road, green and digital infrastructure; and
- supporting inward investment, innovation and employment opportunities through focused capital grants for business and skills development in priority occupations.

The major transport scheme bid is for the following two schemes:

- North Kirklees Orbital Road
- Dualling of A1237 York Northern Outer Ring Road

### 3.4 Transport for the North - Proposal to the Secretary of State for the creation of a sub-national transport body

At the meeting WYCA endorsed a proposal to be sent to the Secretary of State requesting Transport for the North (TfN) become a sub-national transport body. Establishing TfN as a sub-national body would facilitate development and implementation of transport strategies for the area.

### 3.5 HS2 Update and Leeds City Region Input to Northern Powerhouse Rail

This item provided an update on proposed changes to HS2 in South Yorkshire and the associated implications for West Yorkshire. A Leeds City Region (LCR) position on Northern Powerhouse Rail was also discussed, that will be progressed for development and implementation through Transport for the North.

Discussing HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail the combined authority agreed there is a strong case for stations in Bradford and York on the planned East West additional route. They also stressed the need for seamless connections and interchange with an improved local transport network, to ensure the benefits of HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail are felt by people right across Leeds City Region.

### 3.6 West Yorkshire Transport Strategy

The paper for this item updated the combined authority on the development of a West Yorkshire Transport Strategy. The Transport Strategy covers the same 20 year period as the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) (i.e. 2016 – 2036).

The Transport Strategy is constructed around five core themes of: Road Network; Places to live and work; One System Public Transport; Smart Futures and Asset Management and Resilience; and the cross cutting themes of Environment, Health and Well-being and Inclusion.

The meeting heard that consultation on a draft Transport Strategy and the related West Yorkshire Bus Strategy commenced on 18 July 2016, and that 800 people had already filled out feedback forms.

### 3.8 LCR Infrastructure Investment Framework

This paper sought approval from the combined authority to commence work on the LCR Infrastructure Investment Framework (IIF). The IIF would be a non-statutory joint investment framework / infrastructure plan that reflects emerging local plans across the city region. The framework will focus on growth opportunities, where to direct investment and safeguarding the environment. Timescales to complete the Framework are assumed to be approximately 18 months.

### 3.9 WYCA Corporate Plan for 2016-2017

The combined authority was asked to approve the corporate plan for the Authority for 2016-2017. The corporate plan sets out the vision and mission for the region, drawing on ambition set out in the recently approved Strategic Economic Plan, and specifically the role of WYCA and the LEP. Four broad areas of work are identified in the plan:

1. Growing business
2. Skilled People, Better Jobs, Better Connected
3. Clean Energy and Environmental Resilience
4. Infrastructure for Growth

## **4. Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

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

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

There are no specific implications for this report.

### **4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan**

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

### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

There are no specific implications for this report.

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

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

### **4.6 Risk Management**

There are no specific implications for this report.

**4.7 Recommendations**

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

**4.8 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

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.