



Report of the Chief Officer, Executive Support

Executive Board

Date: 20 September 2006

Subject: Leeds City region Development Programme

Electoral wards affected:

All

Specific implications for:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the gap

Eligible for call In

Not eligible for call in
(details contained in the report)

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Executive Board's endorsement to the proposed arrangements for securing the submission of the Leeds City Region Development Programme to the Northern Way Secretariat and Central Government by 29 September 2006. In that context, Executive Board is also requested to authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to agree the final terms of the document in concert with the other local authorities that make up the Leeds City Region Partnership.

The draft Leeds City Region Development Programme is being prepared in response to a request from the Northern Way Secretariat. It is intended to inform a pan regional narrative for influencing Government, RDAs and other delivery organisations into putting city region priorities at the heart of their decision making, and to feed into the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

The City Region Development Programme will be formally launched at a regional event being planned for Friday 3 November in Halifax, and a national event being held on Monday 20 November in Westminster.

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Executive Board's endorsement to the arrangements for securing the submission of the Leeds City Region Development Programme to the Northern Way Secretariat and Central Government by 29 September 2006. In that context, Executive Board is also requested to authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to agree the final terms of the document in concert with the other local authorities that make up the Leeds City Region Partnership. Finally, the report also outlines proposals for the formal launch of the document at a regional event on Friday 3 November in Halifax, and a national event being held on Monday 20 November in Westminster.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 The draft Leeds City Region Development Programme is being prepared in response to a request from the Northern Way Secretariat.
- 2.2 The Regional Development Agency (RDA) led Northern Way seeks to transform the North into "an area of exceptional opportunity, combining a world class economy with a superb quality of life". The Strategy sets out how, over a twenty-five year period, it will bridge the £30 billion productivity gap between the North and the average for England.
- 2.3 The Secretariat published its first Northern Way Business Plan 2005-2008 in June 2005. The Business Plan outlines pan-northern activities under ten investment priorities to deliver the first three years of the growth strategy. At the same time, each of the eight Northern Way city regions published their City Region Development Programmes (CRDPs) setting out their first cut analysis of their city region economy and their proposals for accelerating its growth.
- 2.4 Following these publications there have been a number of feedback discussions between the city regions, the RDAs, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (and subsequently the Department for Communities and Local Government) and the Northern Way Secretariat. In addition, the Government has announced its decision to call off a Spending Review in favour of a Comprehensive Spending Review in 2007. Both of these factors necessitated a revision of the series of CRDPs.
- 2.5 The Northern Way Business Plan stated that the CRDPs will play a major part in closing the £30 billion output gap and that the Northern Way would:
- "...continue to work with the city regions to further develop the programmes into robust and realistic narratives, reflecting the latest research and evidence about city region economic development, and capable of convincing a wide audience."
- 2.6 The second iteration of the CRDPs are intended to provide the analysis for identifying and prioritising policy and programmes that will accelerate economic growth using the real world economic geography of the city regions, based on robust and relevant data and evidence. The Northern Way Secretariat will use the CRDPs to inform a pan regional narrative for influencing Government, RDAs and other delivery organisations into putting city region priorities at the heart of their decision making.

3.0 The Leeds City Region Development Programme

- 3.1 The draft Leeds CRDP is being prepared by the Leeds City Region Secretariat (Leeds City Council's Regional Policy Team) in conjunction with the City Region Policy Advisers Group (whose membership consists of policy advisers drawn from each of the city region local authorities together with key sub-regional and regional representatives).
- 3.2 The document is being informed by meetings and work undertaken by the following pan city region Themed Groups (which include partner representation):
- Transport Connectivity (led by METRO – West Yorkshire PTE)
 - Innovation (led by York City Council)
 - Business Infrastructure (led by Wakefield Metropolitan District Council)
 - Skills (led by Kirklees Metropolitan Council)
 - Housing (led by Leeds City Council)
 - Clusters (led by Bradford Metropolitan District Council)
 - Quality of Life (led by North Yorkshire County Council)
- 3.3 The document will also be informed by the following commissioned pieces of research:
- A 20 Year Vision for Transport in the City Region undertaken by Arups.
 - Research by Leeds University (Roger Henderson) on the emergence of Leeds city region as a national centre for financial and business services, and actions to promote its enhanced growth.
 - Research on the links between the economic growth trajectory and the city region's housing offer undertaken by CURS, and subsequently Professor Ian Cole's (Sheffield Hallam University) work on policy implications.
 - Research on mapping innovation capabilities undertaken by SQW on behalf of the Key Cities.
 - Work by the White Rose Consortium on the European Spallation Source project at Selby.
 - Econometrics modelling undertaken by Yorkshire Forward in conjunction with the city region local authorities.
- 3.4 It is intended that the draft Leeds CRDP will put forward a scenario to achieve 4% per annum growth in GVA per capita across the city region over the coming ten years. This growth rate is sufficient to close the productivity gap with the England average over the same time period. This rate of growth will create around 150,000 net new jobs and result in a £21.5 billion increase in GVA across the city region.
- 3.5 To achieve this level of growth, the developing CRDP proposes actions under three key areas:
1. Maximising the city region's key economic assets:
 - Financial and business services
 - Electronics
 - Bioscience and medical research
 - Digital and creative industries
 - Science hub and the European Spallation Source

2. Addressing underlying inhibitors:

- Transport connectivity (20 Year Transport Vision for the City Region)
- Skills and labour market
- Business infrastructure and support
- Housing and sustainable communities
- Quality of life, quality of place, culture, marketing and image

3. Developing the Leeds – Manchester – Sheffield economic core

3.6 The series of research outcomes and the draft CRDP document will be presented to a meeting of all eleven City Region Leaders on 11 September 2006. It is intended that final editing of the document will then take place prior to its submission to the Northern Way Secretariat and Central Government by 29 September.

4.0 Launching the City Region Development Programme

- 4.1 Given the critical importance of 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review and the likelihood of other city regions stepping up their communications activity and media profile over the coming months, it was considered vital that the Leeds City Region Partnership maximises the opportunity of the launch of the CRDP document to raise the profile of the city region and bring the issues to a wider constituency. In this context, a glossy version of the CRDP document will be published.
- 4.2 City Region Leaders were therefore asked to agree a programme for disseminating the priorities contained within the CRDP document. These are:
- A regional launch at HBOS Headquarters in Halifax coordinated by Calderdale Metropolitan District Council, scheduled for Friday 3 November 2006.
 - A parliamentary event at the Palace of Westminster, scheduled for Monday 20 November.
 - Related launch activity in London.
- 4.3 Calderdale Council have secured the support of HBOS who have kindly agreed to support a regional launch event for the CRDP document to be held in Halifax at their Headquarters building. This event would mark the high profile public launch of the document and provide an opportunity for city region stakeholders including private sector organisations, individuals and public bodies involved in the city region baseline research, MPs and selected local journalists to be presented with the document and to use the associated press and media interest to raise the profile of the Leeds city region as a major economic driver in the north.
- 4.4 The CRDP will be presented to a parliamentary audience via a Parliamentary tea event on Monday 20 November. The event is intended to attract a high profile audience, providing a platform for City Region Leaders and Chief Executives to meet with Ministers, MPs, special advisers and Civil Servants, particularly those who have an influence in terms of the Spending Review, including HM Treasury. The event will be held in the large heated Terrace Marquee at the Palace of Westminster. Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP has agreed to sponsor the event.
- 4.5 The launch of the document also presents an opportunity to build a package of related activity particularly at Westminster which might bring added value to Leeds city region's profile. An example of this would be arranging a meeting with the Department for Transport to discuss issues arising from the City Region 20 year

Transport Vision, and Gillian Merron MP has already been approached with a view to facilitating this meeting.

5.0 Implications for council policy and governance

- 5.1 The proposals outlined in the developing CRDP are consistent with the “Going up a league as a city” and “Developing Leeds’ role as the regional capital” aims of the Vision for Leeds 2004 to 2020. The CRDP will also contribute towards the “Leeds is a highly competitive, international city” strategic outcome of the Council’s Corporate Plan 2005 to 2008.
- 2.5 Submission of the Leeds CRDP will meet the following key activity outlined in the Council Plan 2006/07: “The Leeds City Region Development Plan will be completed and submitted in autumn 2006 to feed into the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review”. Its associated launch will also contribute towards “A lobbying and advocacy strategy for Leaders to take forward and promote communication of the Leeds City Region”.

6.0 Legal and resource implications

- 6.1 The proposals outlined in the draft CRDP will seek to influence the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, with a view to securing greater resources into the Leeds city region, aimed at securing greater economic competitiveness and addressing regional economic disparities.

7.0 Recommendations

- 2.6 Members of Executive Board are requested to:
- a) endorse the arrangements for securing the submission of the Leeds City Region Development Programme to the Northern Way Secretariat and Central Government by 29 September, and, in that connection,

authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to agree the terms of the final document, in concert with the other authorities which make up the Leeds City Region Partnership, and,
 - b) note the proposals for the formal launch of the City region Development Programme as set out in the report.