

West Yorkshire Devolution

Have your say

The consultation will run from 25th May 2020 to midnight on 19th July 2020

Background

On 11 March 2020, a 'minded to' [devolution deal](#) was agreed between HM Government in Westminster and the Leaders of the councils of West Yorkshire. Implementation of this deal is being done jointly between City of **Bradford** Metropolitan District Council, Borough Council of **Calderdale**, Council of the Borough of **Kirklees**, **Leeds** City Council and Council of the City of **Wakefield**, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, and the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Devolution is the transferring of money and functions from central Government, to enable decisions that are a priority for West Yorkshire to be made locally. These decisions can be made by a mayoral combined authority and Mayor, who is elected to serve local people, communities and businesses. In addition, there are functions held by both the mayoral combined authority and the councils of West Yorkshire.

The deal will provide a range of devolved functions and control and influence over at least £1.8bn of funding, most of which is new money to the area, to invest in our people, towns, cities and rural areas in infrastructure, skills, business, housing and regeneration, cultural and heritage assets.

Where the Mayor or the mayoral combined authority is given a function or power, this is called "conferring". You will see this word appear several times in this document.

Why are we proposing these changes?

Each council in West Yorkshire and the Combined Authority has carefully considered the 'minded to' devolution deal. In addition, a governance review was undertaken to look at the options, which concluded that establishing a mayoral combined authority model of governance for West Yorkshire would have a positive impact on the interests and identities of local communities.

The review also proposed that a scheme is published. The scheme is a document that sets out proposed changes to the role and functions of the Combined Authority. The scheme forms the basis for an order establishing the Combined Authority as a mayoral combined authority and is a key part of the process required by law to make changes to current arrangements. The scheme forms the basis of this consultation.

The full governance review and scheme are available at www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/devolution. You may find it useful to read these documents, and the [deal](#) document itself, before responding to this consultation.

Where the Mayor or the mayoral combined authority is given a function or power, this is called "conferring". You will see this word appear several times in this document.

What we are consulting about?

Subject to the West Yorkshire devolution deal being implemented, work has begun to set out how it would support the economic and infrastructure development of the region in areas including transport, education and skills, planning and housing, and functions currently carried out by the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.

It is proposed that the five West Yorkshire councils will work with the Mayor to exercise these new functions through the mayoral combined authority.

It is proposed that the mayoral combined authority will continue to be called the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority will retain its current functions, and these will be complemented by the devolution deal.

Further information about what is included in the deal is available at www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/devolution. We have also developed some frequently asked questions, which you may find useful to read.

Public consultation

We have set out the detail of how we propose that devolution will work in West Yorkshire and we want to know what you think. Our consultation is open from 25 May 2020 to midnight on 19 July 2020.

You can have your say by:

- Completing our online survey at www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/wydevolution
- Completing this hard copy consultation document
- Emailing us at wyconsultation@ipsos-mori.com
- Writing to us using the freepost address (you don't need a stamp) **Freepost WY Devolution Consultation**
- Sharing your views by Twitter to @WestYorkshireCA using #WestYorksDevolution

You can ask us a question using the Question and Answer (Q&A) tool on our [Your Voice consultation website](#) if you have a question that isn't covered by the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that appear on the website, or if you would like us to clarify any technical terms that appear in this survey. You can also contact us with queries using any of the contact details listed above.

We will be updating our FAQs throughout the consultation with any common questions received.

Accessibility and contact information

If you are unable to take part in one of the ways we have suggested, please call **0800 141 3657** or email wyconsultation@ipsos-mori.com and we will discuss the best way for you to participate. This may include making materials available in another format, such as large print, braille, or another language.

Next steps and decision making after the consultation has concluded

Following the close of the consultation on 19 July 2020, Ipsos MORI will independently compile a report on all the responses received. The report will be considered by City of **Bradford** Metropolitan District Council, Borough Council of **Calderdale**, Council of the Borough of **Kirklees**, **Leeds** City Council, Council of the City of **Wakefield** and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The Secretary of State will be sent a summary of the consultation responses and will take account of the views of the public when deciding to lay an order before parliament later in the year to make changes to the Combined Authority's current arrangements and functions.

How are you responding to this consultation?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- I am a member of the public, giving my views as an individual
- I am responding on behalf of, or as a representative of, a business or organisation

Please provide the first half of your postcode:
(e.g. LS1) **PLEASE WRITE IN**

This is a public consultation, and therefore anyone can have their say and all valid responses will be taken into account.

Section 1: Governance

Below is a summary of how we propose the new mayoral combined authority will work in terms of governance, scrutiny and auditing arrangements. For the full details, please refer to section 2 the scheme which is published on our website at <https://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/wydevolution>

To implement the West Yorkshire devolution deal we are proposing the following:

- The first Mayor for West Yorkshire will be elected in May 2021 by registered voters in the five West Yorkshire council areas: Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield.
- The initial term of the Mayor will be for three years, to 2024. After then, each mayoral term will last for four years to align with other mayoral combined authority elections in England.
- The mayoral combined authority will have a total of 11 members, comprising:
 - eight voting members from the constituent councils, which are expected to include the five leaders of each council (Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield). Three additional members will be chosen in collective agreement to reflect as far as practical the political make-up of the constituent councils
 - the Mayor
 - plus, two non-voting additional members: an elected member from City of York Council; and a member nominated by the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
- Police and Crime Commissioner functions will be passed to the mayor who will be able to appoint a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and delegate some functions to that person.
- The Mayor will also have functions relating to transport, housing and planning and finance
- The mayoral combined authority will have responsibility for transport-related functions, adult education and skills functions, housing functions, economic development, and finance functions in addition to those exercised by the Mayor.
- The mayoral combined authority will be required to make arrangements for the overview and scrutiny of mayoral and non-mayoral functions, as well as retaining statutory arrangements in relation to audit. The Mayor's Police and Crime Commissioner functions will be scrutinised by a Police and Crime Panel.

Question 1

Do you agree or disagree with our proposals for the revised arrangements for the Combined Authority, as set out above and in the Scheme, in particular the proposed arrangements for a Mayor, mayoral combined authority, and the councils, working together?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Why do you say this?

PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

Section 2: Transport

The West Yorkshire devolution deal will give the Mayor and mayoral combined authority responsibilities for significant investment in transport infrastructure and services, including public transport. This will help create an effective and efficient West Yorkshire transport system for the long term, and give greater certainty over future funding for transport improvements.

Below is a summary of how it is proposed that this will work. You can find full details by reading the section 3.3 of the scheme published at <https://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/wydevolution>

It is proposed that this will be done by:

Conferring functions on the Mayor to:

- produce a Local Transport Plan and related transport strategies
- have access to franchising powers for bus services that would enable the Mayor to decide what bus services are provided (routes, timetables and fares). It is expected that this would have many benefits including smart, simple, integrated ticketing across West Yorkshire. Please note that there would be a separate process and consultation if the Mayor decided to consider franchising.
- request the provision of electric vehicle charging points in order to promote lower carbon transport options

Conferring functions on the mayoral combined authority to:

- set up a Key Route Network across West Yorkshire on behalf of the Mayor. This would enable a consistent approach to the management of that network, building on the existing Key Route Network of local roads
- minimise disruption on the Key Route Network with a permit scheme to help plan and manage utility and highway works
- enter into agreements with local highway authorities for construction, improvement and maintenance. The expectation is that all operational responsibility for highways will remain with local councils, so the use of these functions will need to be agreed with constituent authorities
- make grants to bus operators

These functions will unlock transport funds and funding flexibilities that will build on successful funding bids in the region, including the recently announced £317m Transforming Cities Fund allocation for Leeds City Region.

Question 2

Do you support or oppose this proposal to confer transport functions and new transport related functions to a West Yorkshire Mayor and mayoral combined authority?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

Strongly
support

Support

Neither support
nor oppose

Oppose

Strongly
oppose

Don't
know

Why do you say this?

PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

Section 3: Skills and employment

The deal will give the mayoral combined authority powers to help people and businesses in West Yorkshire get the skills and support necessary to reach their ambitions, as well as support the region's economy. This will be achieved through control of the government's Adult Education Budget, currently £63 million per year.

Below is a summary of how this will work. For full details please refer to section 3.4 of the scheme, available at <https://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/wydevolution>

It is proposed that this will work by conferring functions on the mayoral combined authority to:

- provide adult education and training and control the Adult Education Budget (AEB) from the academic year 2021/2022, subject to meeting readiness conditions.
- promote the effective participation in education and training of young people aged 16 and 17.
- make available to young people and relevant young adults appropriate support services to encourage, enable and help them participate in education and training.
- ensure that adult education and training in West Yorkshire promotes high standards, fair access to opportunity for education and training, and fulfils individuals' learning potential.
- require relevant institutions in the further education sector to provide appropriate education to specified individuals aged between 16 and 18 years.

Devolved control of the Adult Education Budget will give us greater influence over the adult skills and training to better meet the needs of individuals, businesses and the economy. It will also help deliver inclusive growth in the region by allowing as many people as possible to contribute to our region's prosperity.

Please note: At the same time as this devolution consultation a separate consultation will be held on the Adult Education Budget Strategy – it is a public consultation, but we are particularly keen to hear from education and training providers and other interested stakeholders. If you are interested in knowing more about this consultation, please visit our website: [yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/aeb](https://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/aeb) or contact us by one of the methods listed at the start of this consultation document.

Question 3

Do you support or oppose this proposal to confer skills and employment functions to a West Yorkshire mayoral combined authority?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

Strongly support

Support

Neither support nor oppose

Oppose

Strongly oppose

Don't know

Why do you say this?

PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

Section 4: Housing and planning

The deal will give the Mayor and mayoral combined authority functions to look at planning across the West Yorkshire area to improve coordination of decisions, ensure that decisions are not affected by council boundaries and address cross-boundary issues.

The proposal is that this will be done by conferring functions to the Mayor and mayoral combined authority to exercise functions alongside the five West Yorkshire councils or Homes England, as appropriate.

Below is a summary of how this will work. For full details please refer to section 3.5 of the scheme available at <https://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/wydevolution>

It is proposed that this will work by:

Conferring functions and funding to the Mayor that include:

- compulsory purchase powers
- powers to produce a spatial development strategy for West Yorkshire
- powers to designate an area of land as a mayoral development area and set up a mayoral development corporation to focus on that area's community regeneration and sustainability

Conferring functions to the mayoral combined authority to:

- improve the supply and quality of housing
- secure regeneration or development of land or infrastructure
- support in other ways the creation, regeneration and development of communities
- contribute to achieving sustainable development and good design

The mayoral combined authority will provide a pipeline plan of housing sites in West Yorkshire to bring more land into development for the delivery of housing on brownfield sites. Regeneration powers will allow compulsory purchase and land acquisition and disposal to support infrastructure and community development and wellbeing.

This includes providing coordination to infrastructure planning such as broadband and utilities management, plus energy and risk planning, which includes flood risk management.

Question 4

Do you support or oppose this proposal to confer housing and planning functions to a West Yorkshire Mayor and mayoral combined authority?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

Strongly support

Support

Neither support nor oppose

Oppose

Strongly oppose

Don't know

Why do you say this?

PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

Section 5: Police and Crime

The 'minded to' devolution deal announced in March 2020 included the transfer of Police and Crime Commissioner functions and powers to the Mayor in 2024.

Currently we are exploring the potential to transfer the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Mayor ahead of the 2024 timeline, possibly as early as 2021. This will deliver better outcomes for the public by improving working across public services, for example between social inclusion and community safety and cohesion. Joining police and crime functions with oversight of other public services in the mayoral combined authority would also promote further collaboration within the region. A mayor exercising police and crime functions will continue to provide a single, directly accountable individual who is responsible for securing an efficient and effective police force in West Yorkshire, in the same way the Police and Crime Commissioner does currently.

Below is a summary of the proposed Police and Crime Commissioner functions that would transfer to the Mayor. Full details are available in section 3.6 of the scheme available at <https://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/wydevolution>

The Mayor's Police and Crime Commissioner functions would include:

- issuing a police and crime plan
- setting the police budget including council tax requirements
- undertaking Chief Constable dismissals, suspensions, and appointments

The Mayor will appoint a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (who is not directly elected), to whom they may delegate functions like:

- determining police and crime objectives
- attending meetings of a Police and Crime Panel
- preparing an annual report

These functions will be transferred from the existing West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner to the Mayor. A Police and Crime Panel will scrutinise the actions and decisions of the Mayor /Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and enable the public to hold them to account.

Question 5

Do you support or oppose this proposal to confer Police and Crime Commissioner functions to a West Yorkshire Mayor?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

Strongly support

Support

Neither support nor oppose

Oppose

Strongly oppose

Don't know

Why do you say this?

PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

Section 6: Finance

The 'minded to' devolution deal announced in March 2020 proposes that the mayoral combined authority will receive control and influence over at least £1.8bn of funding from central Government in Westminster to spend on local priorities.

The Mayor would be required to prepare a draft annual budget for their areas of responsibility based on the powers devolved to them as part of this deal. The Mayor's budget is subject to the approval of the Combined Authority.

Below is a summary of the new financial responsibilities that the Mayor and mayoral combined authority would have. For full details please refer to section 4 of the scheme, which is available at <https://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/wydevolution>

It is proposed that this would work by:

Conferring functions and funding to the Mayor that include:

- the power to issue a Council Tax Precept in relation to the exercise of Mayoral functions and also provide for a precept for policing and crime functions.
- the power to charge a business rate supplement (subject to a ballot of local businesses)

Conferring functions to the mayoral combined authority to:

- extend the Combined Authority's existing borrowing powers (which are currently for transport functions) to other priority infrastructure projects, including but not limited to: highways, housing, investment and economic regeneration
- be able to seek consent to raise a Strategic Infrastructure Tariff to enable it to raise funding for strategic infrastructure.

Question 6

Do you support or oppose this proposal to confer additional finance functions on a West Yorkshire Mayor and mayoral combined authority?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

Strongly
support

Support

Neither support
nor oppose

Oppose

Strongly
oppose

Don't
know

Why do you say this?

PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

Section 7: Final comments

The devolution deal sets out a significant shift of functions, funding, and responsibility from central government to West Yorkshire, in areas like transport, skills, and economic development. The scheme <https://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/wydevolution> proposes the full details of how the new functions and changed arrangements will be carried out by the West Yorkshire Mayor and mayoral combined authority.

Question 7

Are there any comments you would like to make that you do not feel you have addressed in your response?

PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

About you

So that we can ensure we capture a diverse range of views through this consultation, it would be really helpful if you could provide some information about yourself.

The personal information you provide will only be used in the manner described in the privacy policy which can be found at [<https://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/wydevolution>]. In addition to the information provided in the privacy policy, any information submitted via this document will also be processed, analysed and reported by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Please tick here to confirm you have read and understood this:

I have read and understood the privacy policy

If you told us you are responding to the consultation with views that represent a group or organisation please complete questions 8 and 9.

If you told us you are responding as an individual, please skip ahead to question 10.

Responding on behalf of a group or organisation

Q8. Please select the sector that best describes your group or organisation:

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- Local government
- Voluntary and community sector
- Elected representative
- Civil service or government
- Charity
- Academic
- Action group
- Transport
- Business (please answer **Q8b**)
- Something else
- Prefer not to say

If 'something else' **PLEASE WRITE IN:**

Q8b. If you selected 'business' - please select the sector that best describes your business

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- Manufacturing
- Food and drink manufacturing
- Creative and digital
- Health and life sciences
- Low carbon and environmental
- Financial and professional services
- Something else
- Prefer not to say

If 'something else' **PLEASE WRITE IN:**

Q9. Please tell us about the group, organisation, or business you represent:

Name of organisation:

Your position in the organisation:

Responding as an individual

Q10. How do you describe your gender identity?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Prefer to describe as **PLEASE WRITE IN:**

Q11. Please write in your age **PLEASE WRITE IN AS A WHOLE NUMBER e.g. 43**

Q12. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- Yes, limited a lot
- Yes, limited a little
- No
- Prefer not to say

Q13. Which of the following activities best describes what you are doing at present?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- Employee in full-time job (30 hours plus per week)
- Employee in part-time job (under 30 hours per week)
- Self-employed full or part-time
- Working but currently furloughed
- On a government supported training programme (e.g. modern apprenticeship/training for work)
- Full-time education at school, college or university
- Unemployed and available for work
- Permanently sick/disabled
- Wholly retired from work
- Looking after the home
- Doing something else
- Prefer not to say

If 'something else' **PLEASE WRITE IN:**

Q14. In which of these ways does your household occupy your current accommodation?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- Owned outright
- Buying on mortgage
- Rent from council
- Rent from Housing Association/Trust
- Rent from private landlord
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Q15. What is your ethnic group identity?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

White/White British

- English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish traveller
- Eastern European
- Any other White background

Asian/Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Kashmiri
- Any other Asian background

Black/African/Caribbean/Black British

- African
- Caribbean
- Any other Black/African/Caribbean background

Mixed/multiple ethnic groups

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed/multiple ethnic background

Other ethnic group

- Arab
- Other ethnic group

- Prefer not to say

Q16. What is your religion?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- None
- Christian (all denominations)
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Jewish
- Hindu
- Any other religion
- Prefer not to say

Q17. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- Heterosexual or straight
- Gay or lesbian
- Bisexual
- Prefer not to say

Prefer to describe as **PLEASE WRITE IN:**

Q18. What is your marital or civil partnership status?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- Single (never married)
- Married or civil partnership
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Separated
- Another status
- Prefer not to say

END OF QUESTIONS

**Thank you for completing the consultation document.
Your feedback is important to us**

**Please return your completed consultation to us in an envelope (no stamp required),
to our freepost address by 19 July 2020.**

Freepost WY Devolution Consultation