

Inclusive Growth Strategy Update

Date: 16th October 2023

Report of: Chief Officer Culture and Economy

Report to: Report to the Consultative Meeting of Members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This report introduces the new Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy 2023 - 2030. This follows a previous report to the Committee in November 2022 during the development of the strategy.
- The new strategy is available on the Inclusive Growth Leeds website (inclusivegrowthleeds.com).
- The Inclusive Growth Strategy has been updated to reflect the changed economic, political, social and environmental context whilst maintaining a focus on economic growth that benefits everyone. The strategy focusses on tackling inequality, ensuring we have the right infrastructure to enable our ambition, tackling the climate emergency, supporting all sections of our society into better jobs, raising skill levels and improving the health of the poorest the fastest while helping people to live healthy and active lives.
- The strategy sets out nine 'Big Ideas' for how best to deliver growth that benefits all our citizens and communities, set within the three themes of People, Place and Productivity.
- Addressing the climate emergency is embedded in the new strategy. By 2030, we will have made rapid progress towards carbon neutrality, reducing our impact on the planet, making places more resilient and adaptable to climate change, doing so in a fair way and growing the Leeds economy.

Recommendations

- a) To note the contents of this report and presentation and invite members to comment.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The global and national economic context has changed significantly over the past five years, and we are facing bigger challenges than any generation before us. We currently have significant volatility which is likely to continue for some time. The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, significantly higher inflation, the war in Ukraine, higher interest rates and the new relationship with the EU are all impacting on our economy. We still need to continue tackling poverty, entrenched inequality and support our most disadvantaged communities while growing our economy and this challenge has grown more difficult owing to the impact of current economic conditions.

- 2 Alongside geopolitical instability, we see significant long-term trends and changes that represent a challenge and an opportunity for Leeds. For example, for businesses to survive, be productive and remain competitive, they need to embrace innovation and new and emerging technologies including Generative Artificial Intelligence and other technologies.
- 3 As well as responding to trends and building resilience, the Inclusive Growth Strategy addresses and aligns with a policy landscape that has been changing since 2018. West Yorkshire secured a devolution deal in 2020 and the Mayoral model has already provided opportunities for Leeds, with more to come. Leeds City Council is aligned with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority on calling for additional investment and powers for the region to deliver our shared ambitions.
- 4 The Inclusive Growth Strategy reflects new policies and strategies that have been developed locally, including the Future Talent Plan, the Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy, a future update of the Local Plan, the Leeds Digital Strategy and the Destination Marketing and International Relations Plan.
- 5 As part of our approach, we are shifting power to citizens. We want to become a city which champions Community Wealth Building, retaining more wealth and opportunity for the benefit of local people. Leeds has also pioneered the use of ABCD (Asset-Based Community Development) to create the largest programme of this type in the country, founded on the principle that given the tools and the opportunity, small groups of citizens can change the things they believe need changing in the community, better than anyone else. We're also working with our Leeds Anchors to embed these principles.
- 6 In terms of the Leeds economy, Leeds is the main economic centre of the Leeds City Region driving growth across the North. In 2021, the size of the Leeds economy measured through GVA (Gross Value Added) was £26.3bn. We have a large and varied geographical footprint that allows us to plan for growth in a more sustainable way than many other comparative cities. Leeds has undergone huge development change over the last 10 years with £4bn invested in large scale development projects and an even larger active pipeline of over £7bn.
- 7 We have seen continued investment in the city centre while a number of neighbourhoods in Leeds continue to be cut off from the opportunities that exist in the city centre through physical barriers, poor transport connectivity and difficulties connecting people to the types of opportunities available. Only 38% of Leeds' population can reach the city centre on public transport in 30 minutes, and the city has a concentration of older poor-quality housing predominantly in more disadvantaged areas. We need to find the right balance in improving communities and places, supporting and enabling growth and connecting communities to opportunities, particularly to employment.
- 8 Leeds was recently ranked by Forbes as the location in the UK showing the most progress on reaching net zero. The updated Inclusive Growth Strategy sets out how we intend to

address the climate emergency whilst continuing to grow an economy which has health and wellbeing, social progress and community resilience at the heart. As well as investing in a number of measures to help the city and our businesses adapt to climate change including the Flood Alleviation Scheme and Leeds PIPES, there are vast opportunities for the public and private sector if we embrace net zero. This includes job creation, the generation of new skills, opportunities for innovation and Leeds' capability to be the home of green finance for the UK.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 9 There are no equality and diversity, or cohesion and integration implications as a result of this report.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 10 The shift in the local policy landscape over the past few years led to a significant amount of consultation with the public being undertaken as previously outlined, for example, consultations via the development of the Future Talent Plan, Innovation Arc, Local Plan Update and Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy. The feedback from these consultations and resulting pieces of work were fed into the development of the Inclusive Growth Strategy.
- 11 The strategy was launched on 21st September with stakeholders from across the city in attendance. The main form of engagement is through the Inclusive Growth Delivery Partnership which continues over 1000 members and continues to grow. To sign up, please see this link: [Get Involved | Inclusive Growth Leeds](#).

What are the resource implications?

- 12 There are no specific implications as a result of this report.

What are the legal implications?

- 13 There are no specific implications as a result of this report.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 14 There are no risk implications as a result of this report.

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 15 The new Inclusive Growth Strategy brings together the work that is ongoing in Leeds as well set out what needs to be done to ensure that the economy brings us closer to meet the targets as part of the Climate Emergency declaration. The Inclusive Growth Strategy has been updated along the same timescales as the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, with Health and Wellbeing a fundamental aspect of Inclusive Growth. This is in terms of helping people to live healthy lives from childhood to old age, reducing health inequalities, supporting

people with long-term health conditions into work, and improving people's lives through unlocking the potential of health and care innovation.

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

16 Not applicable

b) How will success be measured?

17 We will seek to understand the impact of the Leeds Inclusive growth strategy through both the use of the Social Progress Index for Leeds and traditional economic indicators including GVA and Employment data.

18 The Social Progress Index (SPI)ⁱ is a tool being pioneered in Leeds which is now being used to measure how well Leeds is doing in terms of Inclusive Growth. The Social Progress Index (SPI) is a measurement framework model that was designed by the Social Progress Imperative an international NGO who produce global, country and city level SPIs. It is a tool that helps measure how well Leeds is doing in terms of Inclusive Growth. The SPI is built on three themes: Basic Human Needs; Foundations of Wellbeing; and Opportunity. Linked to the United Nations Sustainability Goals which are a commitment by world leaders to improve wellbeing of all people and ensure environmental sustainability by 2030, the Social Progress Index asks universally important questions about the success of societies.

19 This data is published alongside the strategy as a dashboard on the Inclusive Growth website, enabling us to regularly update and monitor trends. We will also undertake comparisons with other core cities in the UK.

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

20 The timetable is as follows:

- September 2023 – publication
- October 2023 - A new update of the Social Progress Index and an economic data dashboard be published.

21 Building on our successful approach of the last five years, we will continue to work through our extended citywide delivery partnership to continue to build our shared sense of purpose and understand the difference we're making to people in Leeds.

Appendices

22 Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy 2023-2030

23 Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy 2023 – 2030 Executive Board Report

Background papers

24 None