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**Report of Chief Executive**

**Report to Full Council**

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> November 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

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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 September.

**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 September.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 Following cross party agreement this is the third 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 recent announcements have been made elsewhere of deals agreed by Sheffield City Region and the North East with central Government. The WYCA has been working with other partner authorities to draw up proposals for a further devolution deal to the one agreed in March. A proposal has been submitted to the Treasury and negotiations continue regarding the freedoms and flexibilities of a possible deal.
- 2.3 As well as devolution, the following items were discussed at the Combined Authority meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> September.

### **2.3.1 *Growth Deal delivery and budget allocation***

This item was to update on projects under the Leeds City Region Growth Deal and also to discuss the potential requirement for budget reallocations within the 2015/16 budget, with a further paper on this matter to be brought to the October Combined Authority meeting.

### **2.3.2 *West Yorkshire 'plus' Transport Fund***

The meeting endorsed the progression through the relevant 'gateway' procedures of rail parking programmes as part of the Transport Fund. Tranche 1 programmes consist of four stations where there are no anticipated land ownership barriers (including Horsforth); whereas Tranche 2 programmes are subject to land ownership issues being resolved (including Morley). All are expected to be progressed within the first three years of the Transport Fund.

### **2.3.3 *Planning Review***

This item presented the findings of the Planning Review conducted by the LCR Planning Portfolios Board for approval by the Authority. Agreement was taken that will see WYCA:

- providing formal consultation responses at publication draft stage in the preparation of local development plans;
- commenting on planning applications; from a strategic perspective on an exceptions basis;

- implementing resource-sharing activity relating to minerals and waste;
- exploring the potential for further joint working opportunities;
- introduce a spatial element to the Strategic Economic Plan, including a non-statutory joint investment framework/infrastructure plan for the Leeds City Region.

#### 2.3.4 *Governance and Audit Committee Recommendations*

This item provided an update on Governance and Audit matters including the Internal Audit Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme, a review of internal control and approval of the annual accounts for 2014/15.

#### 2.3.5 *Sustainable Urban Development strategy*

The meeting received a report on the progress made to date on developing the Sustainable Urban Development strategy for West Yorkshire & York. The Authority agreed at its meeting in July to act as the 'Intermediate Body' to oversee the Sustainable Urban Development strategy and, under this new arrangement, there will be an element of devolution for a relatively small proportion of the existing 2014-20 allocation of EU funding to Leeds City Region. A Strategy that guides how the funding will be allocated was submitted to government to meet the 25<sup>th</sup> September deadline.

#### 2.3.6 *Leeds City Region Strategic Economic Plan Revision*

This item asked the WYCA to endorse the local enterprise partnership board's decision to revise the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). Given the changes in political and policy context since the SEP was produced in 2014 it was thought that the plan should be brought up to date for potential publication in March.

#### 2.3.7 *Transport for the North*

The meeting was provided with an update on Transport for the North, noting the roles WYCA was playing by shaping its technical work, leading smart and integrated ticketing, city connectivity and developing its rail workstream. It was agreed to support the case for hosting Transport for the North at the Combined Authority's Leeds headquarters, which could join Rail North by having its headquarters in the region.

#### 2.3.8 *Medium Term Financial Strategy*

The meeting took note of the development of a three year finance strategy to ensure the best use of the combined West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority and Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership budgets. Approval was given to extra funding for a number of projects including the Enterprise Adviser Continuation and also for phase two of the Superfast West Yorkshire programme for broadband.

### **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.