
Report of Chief Executive

Report to Full Council

Date: 13th January 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

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 November.

Recommendations

3. 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 November.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Following cross party agreement this is the fourth 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 by Sheffield City Region, the North East, Liverpool and West Midlands. 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 20th November.
 - 2.3.1 *Leeds City Region Growth Deal Delivery and Budget Approvals*

This item was to update on projects under the Leeds City Region Growth Deal and also to discuss funding packages for several programmes and projects scheduled to begin in 2016/17. Members were told that significant progress had been made in delivering schemes to date and the news that £76.5m of £115m Growth Deal funding had been committed.
 - 2.3.2 *West Yorkshire Area Based Review of Post-16 Education*

The meeting received an update on the recently announced area based review that will take place in West Yorkshire starting in November. The combined authority will be kept up to date with all developments which will be led by a steering group comprising representatives from the five West Yorkshire authorities and from the LEP.
 - 2.3.3 *Leeds City Region Strategic Land and Assets Board*

This item discussed a draft terms of reference for a LCR Strategic Land and Asset Board prior to establishing a first meeting in February 2016. This comes from part of the previous pre-Election Devolution Deal agreed with the former Coalition Government in March 2015, when it was agreed to establish a Joint Leeds City Region Assets Board with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to consider the use, reuse and disposal of surplus public sector land. This builds on the current LCR HCA Board which has Member representatives from each of the local authorities.
 - 2.3.4 *Appointment of Managing Director*

The meeting saw approval for the appointment of a first Managing Director of WYCA, who is expected to start in the New Year. The successful candidate, Ben Still, joins from Sheffield City Region where he has been in position since 2011 and was involved in the recent devolution negotiations.

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 documents¹

5.1 None

¹ 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.