

SCRUTINY BOARD (INFRASTRUCTURE, INVESTMENT & INCLUSIVE GROWTH)

WEDNESDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2018

PRESENT: Councillor P Truswell in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, N Buckley,
P Carlill, K Dye, R Grahame, C Harrison,
K Maqsood, M Shazad and J Taylor

20 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations.

21 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors K Brookes, S Field and P Wadsworth.

Councillor B Anderson was in attendance as substitute for Councillor P Wadsworth.

22 Minutes - 25 July 2018

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

23 Draft Terms of Reference – Inquiry into the implementation of Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy

The report of the Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support provided the Board with draft terms of reference for the Inquiry into the Implementation of the Inclusive Growth Strategy. The draft terms of reference were appended to the report.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Sue Wynne, Chief Officer, Employment and Skills
- Councillor Jonathon Pryor

Members attention was brought to the Scope of the Inquiry as outlined in the report with a particular focus on other areas of the Board's work which would dovetail into the Inquiry. These included the Housing Mix, Digital Inclusion, Transport and Sustainable Development.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the information contained in the report and the appended terms of reference be noted.
- (2) That the terms of reference for the Inquiry be agreed.
- (3) To note that the terms of reference may incorporate additional information during the inquiry should the Scrutiny Board identify any further scope for inquiry or request further witnesses or evidence.

24 Session 1 - Inquiry into the implementation of Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy

The report of the Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support provided information to support the first session of the inquiry as follows:

- Area 1

A presentation which provides an update relating to the mapping and framework position for the Inclusive Growth Strategy.

- Area 2

Providing background and context:

- The aligned calls to actions in the Leeds Talent and Skills Plan focussing on addressing low pay and in-work poverty and connecting residents of our most disadvantaged communities to opportunities.
- The relevance of Anchor Institutions.

New Skills for the New Economy – The Leeds Talent and Skills Plan 2018-23 was appended to the report.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor J Pryor, Executive Member
- Sue Wynne, Chief Officer, Employment and Skills
- Eve Roodhouse, Chief Officer, Economic Development

The Board was given a presentation which focussed on the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy and the Leeds Talent and Skills Plan. Key issues highlighted included the following:

- Issues of concern previously raised by the Board included low pay, low skills and zero hours contracts. The Talents and Skills Plan aimed to address these and other issues and link them into the Inclusive Growth Strategy.
- The Talent and Skills Plan was aligned with the Inclusive Growth Strategy with a particular focus on increasing investment in skills as a key driver for business productivity and access to employment.
- Labour market challenges and opportunities:
 - Increase in private sector jobs across the city. Leeds had the highest job growth of all the core cities.

- Concerns regarding inequality and mobility and those disconnected from education and training.
- Uncertainty surrounding Brexit and potential loss of migrant labour in low paid jobs.
- Development of the Industrial Growth Strategy.
- Getting the skills right for the population to meet the needs of the city – review of further education, Post 16 Skills Plan and apprenticeship reforms/
- Local context and employment forecasts:
 - There would be a reduction in semi-skilled occupations with a growth in high skilled and also lower skilled, lower income jobs.
 - It was forecast that by 2020, a further 34,000 jobs would be created across the city with most of these at the higher end and requiring a level 4 qualification.
 - Impact of demographics – an aging population and impact of people retiring and the subsequent replacement demand.
 - Inability to fill vacancies due to the lack of candidates with the right skills, qualifications and experience – there was a need to fill the gap from education to employment.
- In work poverty – it was estimated that 65,000 people in Leeds were earning less than Living Wage Foundation’s living wage and 155,000 people were living in poverty.
- Zero hours contracts – how these could contribute to poverty, lack of employment rights and financial insecurity. It was estimated that 10 to 11,000 people in Leeds were on zero hours contracts.
- Interventions to look at how to get people out of poverty into employment. These included the following:
 - Inclusive Anchors Programme – role of large organisations who would recruit locally, creating healthy workplaces, local procurement.
 - Career learning pilot – to help those already in work and those in low paid jobs. Provision of Learning Loans and the National Retraining Scheme.
 - The Apprenticeship Levy
- Progress on the implementation of the Inclusive Growth Strategy – there would be a range of projects that contributed to the strategy. There would be regular updates provided to the Board.
- Projects that contributed to the strategy included the Inclusive Anchors Network, Digital Inclusion/Skills Action Plan and the Apprenticeship Levy.
- Productivity – Work with partner organisations, the Leeds Innovation District, retention of graduate talent and the Business Growth programme.

In response to Members comments and questions, the following was discussed:

- Use of Zero Hour Contracts -it was felt that there was a misuse of these and were often used where jobs should be contracted properly.

- The effect of automation on jobs – this also provided opportunity for learning new skills.
- How to encourage employees to pay the national living wage.
- Concern regarding the need to improve literacy and numeracy skills at a primary level to enable more to go into further education and improve skills – it was reported that literacy results were improving in Leeds year on year.
- Manufacturing and engineering skills – work had taken place with schools and colleges and there was involvement with the Leeds Manufacturing Alliance. There was a recognised need to provide the relevant education and training and a skills plan had been developed in order to be able to provide the relevant training and skills
- Work experience and how to encourage companies to provide work experience opportunities.
- Sector work based academies – these had been successful in the retail sector.
- Health and Social Care – there were proposals with partners to develop a Health and Care academy. The sector did have difficulties with recruitment and retention of care staff. There was some work with regards to the use of the Apprenticeship Levy and to get partners to make use of all resources possible. Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust had signed up to the Inclusive Anchors programme.
- ‘Uberisation’ and how this may exploit workers. It was hoped that national legislation would address this.

RESOLVED – That the information contained within the report and presented at the meeting be noted.

25 Implementation of the Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme and how this supports the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy.

The report of the Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support and the Head of Transportation provided the Board with an update on the progress and implementation of the Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme (LPTIP).

A copy of the progress report submitted to Executive Board in July 2018 was appended to the Agenda.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Gary Bartlett, Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation
- Andrew Hall, Head of Transportation
- Nigel Foster, Chair of the Leeds Transport Expert Advisory Panel

The following key issues were highlighted:

- There was a connection with the Inclusive Growth Strategy particular with regards to connection people to employment and training.

- Partnership working – input from the Transport Expert Advisory Panel (TEAP) and the cross party working group.
- Consultation and engagement that had already taken place.
- Work with West Yorkshire Combined Authority and bus operators.
- Role of the Transport Expert Advisory Panel
 - To help secure funding and to deliver the programme within the challenging timescales.
- Links to other issues such as Air Quality and the Inclusive Growth Strategy.
- Future public transport provision.

In response to comments and questions from Members, the following was discussed:

- Consultation – there was concern that this was done electronically and wasn't available to all. It was reported that there had been leaflets and fliers distributed and there had been drop in events. Members of the public were also able to submit written responses. It had been aimed to make the consultation as inclusive as possible.
- A consultation report, which is being put together by Consultants will be shared with the Scrutiny Board once produced.
- The need for joined up working with colleagues in Planning and Highways.
- Representation on the Transport Expert Advisory Panel (TEAP) - it was suggested that there be more local business representation and union representation. It was reported that the composition of the Panel was to be reviewed and there was a willingness to take advice from the Council and Scrutiny.
- Constraints that affected road improvements – these included physical barriers such as trees and walls as well as difficulty and high cost of re-routing underground utilities.
- Co-ordination of schemes which impacted on highways and transport including HS2 and the city heating scheme.
- Railway station provision – this was under the remit of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and there were currently requests for over thirty new stations across West Yorkshire. Members were informed of the difficulties for creating new stations including pressures on the rail network and potential changes to road networks.
- Improving planning for transport to reduce inequalities in communities and to enable employment places can be reached – there were challenges to be addressed such as public transport accessibility for those who work unsocial hours.
- Reference was made to consultation that had been held at Community Committee meetings. It was planned to do further consultation at this local level to try and get a deeper knowledge of local transport requirements.
- Difficulties to achieve objectives due to lack of control over bus services and bus operators. The Board would receive an update in relation to the Inquiry into Bus Service Provision later in the year.

- Creation of local hubs for bus interchanges.
- The HS2 scheme would increase capacity for long distance journeys and may also release more local capacity on the rail network.
- Work with bus operators and the need for more and improved services.
- The TEAP was working with North Yorkshire to look at improving rail services on the Harrogate lane which may ease pressure on the road network.
- Development of ticketing systems to provide a more integrated approach for using different transport systems.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the information contained within the report and presented at the meeting be noted.
- (2) That the Consultant report relating to the 1A and 1B phase be shared with the Scrutiny Board once completed.

26 Work Schedule

The report of the Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support requested Members to consider the Board's work schedule for the remainder of the current municipal year. A copy of the work schedule was appended to the report along with a copy of the Executive Board minutes of 25 July 2018.

RESOLVED – That the Work Schedule (as presented at Appendix 1) be agreed as the basis for the Board's work for the remainder of 2018/19.

27 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 31 October 2018 at 10.30 a.m. (pre-meeting for all Members at 10.00 a.m.)