

## **Inclusive Growth and the More Jobs, Better Jobs Partnership**

### **Introduction**

This note provides a summary of JRF's work on Inclusive Growth and the More Jobs, Better Jobs Partnership for Leeds City Council's Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board. For further details of JRF's work in this area, please visit: [www.jrf.org.uk/inclusivegrowth](http://www.jrf.org.uk/inclusivegrowth)

### **What do we mean by Inclusive Growth?**

Inclusive Growth is about enabling more people and places to both contribute to and benefit from economic success ([RSA, 2017](#)). At JRF we think this should result in a focus on how poverty can be reduced through the creation of better jobs and better access to those jobs for people in or at risk of poverty.

Policy interventions that seek to seed the conditions for the creation of more good jobs (often called the 'demand' side of the labour market), and that seek to better connect people to job opportunities (sometimes described as the 'supply' side of the labour market) are therefore equally vital ([IGA, 2016](#)).

In practice this means thinking about policies that would boost job creation, at the same time as thinking about skills strategies that would improve basic skill levels and enable people to access those jobs. It means thinking about interventions that can improve the quality of jobs at the same time as thinking about how people can be supported to progress in work. And it means thinking about where jobs are located at the same time as thinking about the costs of and ability to use public transport to get to those jobs.

### **What was the More Jobs, Better Jobs Partnership?**

The More Jobs Better Jobs Partnership brought JRF together with Leeds City Council and the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership. It was formally launched in February 2014 and formed part of JRF's wider Cities, Growth and Poverty Research Programme, which later became better known as the Inclusive Growth Programme. That partnership aimed to:

- better understand the relationship between poverty and the economy at a city and city region level;
- identify what can be done and by whom at city/city region level to create more and better jobs;
- make a compelling practical case for change: how and why cities should link growth and poverty reduction; and
- make addressing poverty a more integral part of local growth strategies in cities and city regions.

More information can be found in the publication [Connecting Growth and Poverty Reduction: More Jobs, Better Jobs in Leeds City Region](#), which was published at the launch of the partnership in 2014.

### **Key successes and impacts of the Partnership**

1. Moved Inclusive Growth to the mainstream of the Leeds City Region economic policy agenda
2. Supported development of a new Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy and influenced the refreshed City Region Strategic Economic Plan. It also influenced the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Inclusive Growth programme.
3. Successfully translated research into new policies and practice in a number of areas, especially in relation to action on procurement, progression (in skills, pay and careers) and anchor institutions.

### **Research Summaries**

#### [How cities can connect people in poverty with jobs](#) (June 2015)

This study provided an assessment of UK and international evidence on approaches to linking people in poverty to jobs, and included an extended case study of anti-poverty policy in Leeds. It uses a helpful model of a four stage employment pathway (pre-employment, employment entry, staying in work, in-work progression) as its organising framework, and identifies practice at each stage, gathered through evidence review, expert interviews and in-depth case studies.

#### [Improving progression from low pay at city region level](#) (March 2016)

This study provides an in-depth examination of the in-work progression stage of the employment pathway (building on the work above). It uses extensive labour market analysis to make a case for action and a focus on sectors. This is certainly helpful, albeit very technical. From this, it proposes four areas of policy action for the Leeds City Region, defining what delivery, implementation and expected partners and outcomes might look like.

#### [Overcoming deprivation and disconnection in UK cities](#) (August 2016)

This research explored the geographic pattern of deprived areas and the nature of their disconnection or disadvantage. Although it was part of JRF's national Cities, Growth and Poverty programme, it included a case study on change (or lack of it) in deprived areas in Leeds.

[Maximising the local impact of anchor institutions: a case study of Leeds City Region](#)  
(January 2017)

With wide support, the Partnership decided to catalyse work with anchor institutions. This project was commissioned as a result and conceived as work that would explore the potential of anchor institutions and to help this to be realised. The project engaged with around a dozen organisations and analysed supply chains. It culminated in a 60 page report including lengthy literature review and detailed analysis.

[An Inclusive Growth Monitor for measuring the relationship between growth and poverty](#) (May 2016)

This piece of work was focused nationally on the need for a set of performance indicators for measuring progress on inclusive growth. It reviewed wider academic terrain such as the empirical relationship between conventional economic success and inclusion as context, but is largely focused on the selection and combination of inclusion and growth based indicators.

[Major development projects: connecting people in poverty to jobs](#) (May 2016)

There was strong and locally led support for work to stimulate greater local benefit from major developments given a multi-billion pound pipeline of local construction schemes. This work explored how planning and procurement policies could be used to do this, and included both national good practice and literature review and assessment of the position within Leeds City Region, including through extensive stakeholder engagement. It culminated in a thorough and quite detailed report which identified what could be done and why and provided a framework for action.

[Connecting Major Development to Jobs, Skills & Poverty Reduction in Leeds City Region](#) (March 2017)

Commissioned as a follow-on piece of work to the above work, and moving from this platform to work in close collaboration with local stakeholders to develop an action orientated approach to exploiting the social value potential of major physical developments across Leeds City Region. The project develop a 'How To guide', and used strong engagement with local authority stakeholders and expert advice to develop solutions.