

# Inclusive Growth Strategy Refresh Update

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022

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 a presentation at the meeting that will introduce the work being undertaken by the council to refresh the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy. The current strategy was published in 2018 and runs up until 2023.
- The updated strategy will be published on the new Inclusive Growth Leeds website ([inclusivegrowthleeds.com](https://www.inclusivegrowthleeds.com)) in summer 2023.
- The aim is to set out a clear strategy for inclusive economic growth that everyone in the city can contribute to and benefit from, re-affirming our commitment to ensuring a strong economy within a compassionate city. The strategy will look forward to 2030 and showcase our ambition and how we aim to build resilience across the economy.
- The themes of 'People, 'Place' and 'Productivity' which underpin the current strategy will remain, however the headline aims will be refreshed to reflect the current economic context.
- Addressing the climate emergency will be embedded in the new strategy, recognising the role that economic interventions can play in meeting our Net Zero targets, supporting the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, and building resilience to help people and businesses capitalise on the transition to the green 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 Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy is being refreshed as a result of significant changes in our economy since 2018. Significantly, Covid-19 has led to economic shocks which have continued beyond the pandemic, intertwined with adjustments from the EU-Exit as well as the impact of the war in Ukraine.
- 2 Growth is currently slowing and the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Report of November 2022 states that the economy is expected to remain in recession throughout 2023 and for half of 2024.
- 3 There have been shifts in the labour market since the pandemic, with rises in economic inactivity. The rate increased during June to August 2022 compared with the previous

three-month period, driven by those aged 50 to 64 years, which is leading to problems in filling a high number of vacancies.

- 4 The pandemic also accelerated trends such as increasing digitisation and the shift towards online business. Related to digitisation, automation is presenting opportunities for bringing up productivity, wages and living standards, as well as presenting challenges for businesses and jobs.
- 5 At a local level the declaration of the Climate Emergency in Leeds in 2019, the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh and the revised Local Plan all feed into the strategy. Significantly, the Inclusive Growth Strategy must ensure alignment with the recently published Best City Ambition, also embedding the mission to tackle poverty and inequality at the heart of this work.
- 6 The updated strategy will be informed by research showing the need for the economy to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by the Climate Emergency. This includes incorporating research from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and partners including WPI Economics to assess the employment and skills needs for the green economy in West Yorkshire, as well as the possibility to commission further research if necessary to explore wider economic implications of the transition and what it will mean for local businesses. Other research will also be drawn upon, such as from the Centre for Progressive Policy which recommends important policy considerations to ensure a just transition.
- 7 The strategy will recognise the links between the Climate Emergency and people in Leeds, with a renewed focus on tackling poverty and inequality to lessen people's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. It will prioritise the investment in and transformation of our places and transport, so that the city is greener and more climate resilient. It will also promote innovation which will drive our efforts to achieve Net Zero, as well as supporting talent pipelines into the green economy and ensuring that businesses are able to capitalise on the transition.
- 8 Other important aspects of the new strategy will include focusing on tackling poverty and inequality, including reducing health inequalities, improving talent, skills and employment, investing in infrastructure and strengthening places and communities across the city, expanding our cultural offer and access to culture, as well as stimulating innovation, building Leeds' reputation as a global city and supporting businesses in the face of economic change.

#### 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 To ensure climate-related engagement, the Committee meeting will provide an opportunity for Members to comment on the information presented, alongside engagement being planned with the Leeds Climate Commission. Andy Gouldson, Chair of the Commission, has already been consulted about this work.
- 11 Furthermore, alignment with the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan and the development of the new Climate Action Plan is ongoing.

- 12 Other planned stakeholder engagement includes attending the meetings of key organisations, forums and groups including the Chamber Leadership Meeting, the Leeds Anchors Executive Group, plus sector-specific engagement such as attendance at the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 13 Our next Leeds Inclusive Growth Delivery Partnership event to be held in January 2023, with a varied range of attendees representing sectors across the city, will be specifically focused on engaging about our plans to refresh the strategy.

#### **What are the resource implications?**

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

#### **What are the legal implications?**

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

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

- 16 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

- 17 The Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy refresh will bring 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 other pillar of Health and Wellbeing will similarly be weaved throughout the strategy, with an understanding of the positive relationship between a greener city, healthier people and a strong economy.

#### **Options, timescales and measuring success**

##### **a) What other options were considered?**

- 18 Not applicable

##### **b) How will success be measured?**

- 19 Not applicable

##### **c) What is the timetable for implementation?**

- 20 The timetable is as follows:

- The drafting of the refreshed strategy began in November 2022.
- Targeted stakeholder engagement will take place from Winter 2022 until Spring 2023.
- A specific Inclusive Growth Delivery Partnership event to engage about the new Inclusive Growth Strategy will be held in January 2023.
- The refreshed strategy will be published in Summer 2023.

#### **Appendices**

- 21 None

#### **Background papers**

