

Best City Ambition – Cover Report

Date: 15 January 2024

Report of: Director of Strategy and Resources

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Strategy & Resources)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

This report asks the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board consider and comment on the initial proposals for the Best City Ambition update and report any recommendations to Executive Board ahead of its meeting in February 2023. The update as shown in the initial proposals has been seized as an opportunity to refine the strategic intent underpinning the Best City Ambition, reflecting recent updates to the supporting strategies, further development and implementation work since it was adopted in early 2022, and changes to the context in which the council and its partners are operating.

The Board's consideration of the proposals at this stage follows an earlier item at its October meeting, where Board Members were able to provide a steer on the development of the update.

The assumed timeline is for the Best City Ambition final proposals to be received by Executive Board in February 2024.

Recommendations

- a) The Board is asked to consider and comment upon the initial Best City Ambition proposals.
- b) The Board is asked to agree any recommendations of the Scrutiny Board (Strategy and Resources) that members wish to be shared with the Executive Board.

What is this report about?

- 1 In September 2023, the Executive Board agreed in principle to an update of the Best City Ambition, to reflect updated supporting strategies and refine priorities.
- 2 The Best City Ambition is part of the council's Budget and Policy Framework and therefore in accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, Full Council is responsible for its adoption. These arrangements are set out in Article 4 of the council's constitution.
- 3 As required by the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, it was agreed that the Best City Ambition proposals are to be referred to Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board for consideration.
- 4 The outcome of the Board's deliberations will be reported to Executive Board to inform its consideration of the final proposals. The Executive Board is also required to report to Council how it has taken into account any Scrutiny Board recommendations.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 5 Consultation on the potential impact of the proposals is taking place with a range of stakeholders including members, officers, partners and the public as outlined in the appended Executive Board report (13 December 2023)

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 6 The Best City Ambition is centred on the three pillars, and the proposals reflect the most recent updates to supporting strategies and refines the underpinning priorities. The update revisits our approach to achieving the Ambition, focusing on the intersection of the three pillars as a point of significant opportunity.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 7 An overview of individuals and groups that have been consulted on the proposals is included in the Executive Board cover report attached as Appendix 1. A full account of consultation and engagement will accompany the Executive Board report in February 2024.

What are the resource implications?

- 8 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

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

- 9 The risks of the proposed approach are detailed in the appended Executive Board report.

What are the legal implications?

10 The Scrutiny Board (Strategy and Resources) is being consulted on the Best City Ambition proposals in accordance with the requirements of the Budget and Policy Framework.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

11 The Executive Board agreed to an update of the Best City Ambition in light of updates in the supporting strategies, as an alternative to leaving the vision unchanged.

How will success be measured?

12 The initial proposal outlines the framework for measuring the success of the Best City Ambition, detailing key progress monitoring opportunities including:

- a) Leeds Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA)
- b) Leeds Social Progress Index (SPI)
- c) Community Engagement
- d) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in supporting strategies and plans.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

13 Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Board will consider the proposals in January 2023 alongside the public consultation.

14 Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board will report any recommendations to the Executive Board ahead of its meeting in February 2024 and Full Council will consider final proposals later in the same month.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Executive Board cover report – Best City Ambition 2024 Update Initial Proposals

Appendix 2 – Initial Proposals Consultation Draft

Background papers

None.