



Report of Director of City Development

Development Plan Panel

Date: 9 June 2009

Subject: REGIONAL & CITY REGIONAL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In
(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report updates Members on the city region and regional governance arrangements, and how the City Council is engaging in city region and regional working.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2009, the Assembly was disbanded and its responsibilities, including the responsibility to prepare the Integrated Regional Strategy (the forerunner to the Regional Spatial Strategy), were transferred to Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH) and Yorkshire Forward (YF).
- 1.2 At the regional level a LGYH Leaders Board has been established comprising of two local authority Leaders from each of the three city regions plus the York and North Yorkshire sub-regional Partnership, to feed into a Joint Regional Board with YF.
- 1.3 Similarly, Thematic Boards have been established to oversee specific policy areas – Housing and Regeneration; Spatial Planning; Transport, Work and Skills. Representatives from YF Chair both the Transport and the Work and Skills Boards, and Cllr Box (Leader, Wakefield) Chairs the Spatial Planning Board and Cllr Hopkins (Leader, Bradford) Chairs the Housing and Regeneration Board.

2.0 CITY REGION GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 The city region governance arrangements have continually been evolving in response to emerging opportunities and issues, and a further review will be undertaken as a response to the successful city region Forerunner bid, which will result in a range of new devolved powers and responsibilities to the city region. A diagram of the current city region structures is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.2 The City Region Leaders Board is a legally constituted Joint Committee with economic wellbeing responsibilities delegated from each of the eleven respective local authority partners. All city region decision making powers lie with the Board. Cllr A Carter (Joint Leader, Leeds) is the Chair of the Partnership.
- 2.3 The four thematic Panels advise the Board on their respective themed policy workstreams. These are Member led partnership Panels, which also have representatives from non-local authorities; for example; the Housing Panel also is attended by the Homes and Communities Agency, and the Transport Panel by the Highways Agency and Network Rail. The Housing Panel currently oversees all city region issues relating to housing, regeneration and spatial planning policy, investment and delivery.
- 2.4 Current, city council member representatives are as follows:
 - Housing Panel – Cllr JL Carter / Cllr Anderson
 - Transport Panel – Cllr A Carter (Chair)
 - Economy and Innovation Panel – Cllr Brett (Paul Rogerson also attends as the city region Chief Executive lead officer)
 - Skills and Labour Market Panel – Cllr Bale
- 2.5 Officer groups have been set up to help inform the Panels, and undertake work directed by the Panels, as indicated in the Appendix A; for example, the City Council representatives on the Housing and Spatial Planning Panel are both the Deputy Chief Planning Officer and the Chief Housing Services Officer. There are also a number of time task and finish groups that are set up to take forward specific projects, and involve senior officers from Leeds as appropriate.

- 2.6 Leeds City Council is the Support Services Authority for the city region Partnership. Paul Rogerson is the Chief Officer whom is supported by Regional Policy Team, one of their roles of which is to provide the secretariat support to the Partnership.
- 2.7 The City Council has therefore a strong input into city region activities, both at a Member and officer level.

3.0 LEEDS CITY REGION NOMINATIONS

- 3.1 The City Region Leaders Board recently considered the request for nominations for both the LGYH Leaders Board and Thematic Boards, and the following Member representatives were agreed:

LGYH Leaders Board

- ***Cllr A Carter (Leeds)***
- Cllr Hopkins (Bradford)

Spatial Planning

- Councillor Naylor (Bradford)
- ***Councillor Anderson (Leeds)***

Regeneration and Housing

- Councillor Jeffery (Wakefield)
- ***Councillor J L Carter (Leeds)***

Transport

- Councillor Hawksworth (Bradford)
- Councillor Watson (Calderdale)

Work and Skills

- Councillor C Stanfield (Kirklees)

- 3.2 Each of these Members will be attending these Boards on behalf of the city region rather than their individual authority, but clearly city region positions are composed through collaboration between all city region authorities. As these are recent nominations, briefing and reporting mechanisms are currently being put in place. I
- 3.3 Importantly, in order to be able to reflect city region views, key links will be made with the respective thematic city region Panels. Some of these links are already in place, for example, Cllr JL Carter and Cllr Anderson are the City Council's representatives on the city region Housing Panel. However, in the case of the other Panels, as noted in Para 2.4, the City Council has representatives on the city region thematic panels and therefore can directly feed in the City Council's views in developing city region positions for the relevant Members to then put forward at the Regional Thematic Board meetings.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Members are requested to note the report.

Background Papers

'Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration' (July 2007)

Appendix A
LEEDS CITY REGION GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

