

# Scrutiny Board (City & Regional Partnerships)



Councillor Steve Smith  
Chair of Scrutiny Board  
(City & Regional  
Partnerships)

## **Membership of the Board:**

Councillor Steve Smith (Chair)  
Councillor Bernard Atha CBE  
Councillor Patrick Davey  
Councillor Geoff Driver  
Councillor Jack Dunn  
Councillor Clive Fox  
Councillor Arif Hussain  
Councillor Mick Lyons OBE  
Councillor Jamie Matthews  
Councillor Ralph Pryke  
Councillor Frank Robinson  
Councillor Alec Shelbrooke

## **The Chair's summary**

If you access the Leeds City Region web site<sup>1</sup> you will see that Leeds is at the forefront of what has been described as a quiet revolution in pioneering new arrangements that see central government devolving real powers over jobs, skills, transport, housing and low carbon developments so that they can be delivered close to the community we serve.

The Leeds City Region Partnership Pilot Agreement which was signed in November 2009 has four priorities, Housing and Regeneration, Innovation, Transport and Skills and Worklessness. This agreement fundamentally changes the way in which local government operates. It is quite astonishing to see the work that has been undertaken to date and anticipate the further developments which are still to be put in place.

The new Governance arrangements that are being introduced under a new model of economic leadership, exemplify subsidiarity; taking decisions through a partnership of local authorities. The challenge ahead is to develop new scrutiny arrangements which are accountable and transparent and are also based on subsidiarity.

The Board this year has considered in some detail a number of new governance structures that have been put in place for the Leeds City Region. We have looked at

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<sup>1</sup> [www.leedscityregion.gov.uk/home.aspx](http://www.leedscityregion.gov.uk/home.aspx)

the establishment of an Employment Skills Board and a Joint Housing and Regeneration Board with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

We undertook an inquiry on the Integrated Transport Strategies for Leeds and the wider region. We looked particularly at a revised City Region Transport Panel to be established as a formally constituted Joint Committee with powers delegated to it from central government, the City Region Leaders Board, Local Authorities and other agencies as appropriate. In tandem we considered proposals to establish an 8 Member Executive Board for the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority to provide strong leadership to drive devolved planning and funding decisions.

Further governance arrangements are being explored including one with Yorkshire Forward and the HCA of a Joint Investment Board which will join up investment planning across the full city region agenda. I hope that scrutiny has a role to play in its establishment and operation.

For each of the four priorities the Leeds City Region has agreed performance indicators with Government and relevant agencies which will enable the progress of the pilot programme to be measured. There is clearly a role for scrutiny here.

With the approval of Scrutiny Board (Health) we looked at the decision of NHS Leeds not to proceed with the Joint Service Centre at Kirkstall and issued a statement and recommendations on our findings including "lessons learned".

We also contributed to the development of a new Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030 and continued to track and monitor our Scrutiny Board recommendations during the year.

We explored the Total Place Government initiative that brings a "whole area" approach to public services in order to identify and avoid overlap and duplication and so deliver a step change in both service improvement and efficiency. Whilst Leeds is not included in the pilot study we have already identified a number of initiatives that are being pursued.

I am extremely grateful to my colleagues on the Board for their support, commitment and advice. I would also like to thank the many officers and other witnesses who have attended and contributed to the Board meetings during the year.

**Cllr Steve Smith, Chair of Scrutiny Board (City & Regional Partnerships)**

# Inquiry on the Integrated Transport Strategies for Leeds and the Wider Region

## Summary

In June 2009 we discussed the Local Transport Act 2008 and its implications for decision making both within Leeds and more widely. As a consequence we agreed to undertake an inquiry on the integrated transport strategies for Leeds, West Yorkshire and the Leeds City Region. We looked particularly at the new powers of the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority and the new governance arrangements being proposed.

## Anticipated service benefits

Increasing accessibility and enhancing transport connectivity through investment in a high quality transport system that ensures the needs of the city, West Yorkshire and the Leeds City Region are appropriately represented at every level.

### Our main recommendations

We recommend that the proposed revised Terms of Reference for the Leeds City Region Transport Panel be used as the basis for further iterations of the Terms of Reference and consideration by all the parties concerned.

We endorse the establishment of an 8 Member Executive Board for the WYITA which came into effect on 1st January 2010. We note that the 8 Members will be selected from the overall membership of 22 and recommend that representation on the Executive Board come from all 5 West Yorkshire authorities.

We note that the full WYITA has an important scrutiny role to perform but would welcome the development of scrutiny arrangements for the city region as a whole that are regionally based to aid the transparency, objectivity, efficiency and accountability of the process and ask the Leaders Board to give consideration to this proposal.

We support the need to consider how private and community sector representation could be achieved on the WYITA without voting rights and ask that this be considered in a future review.

We strongly support the decision of the WYITA to proceed with the introduction of Quality Bus Contracts as a means of imposing on operators a level and frequency of bus service that is required on specific routes.

That a further report on transport governance issues be submitted to this Scrutiny Board for consideration once a more detailed work programme has been developed.



Quality Bus Contracts

# Statement on Kirkstall Joint Service Centre

## Summary

In September 2009 we were advised that the proposal for a new Joint Service Centre in Kirkstall had stalled. This project was one of three proposed new Joint Service Centres for the city. We found that the Joint Service Centre in Harehills and the one for Chapeltown were progressing well and on schedule for completion in 2010. We looked at the reasons for the delay and the subsequent decision of NHS Leeds not to proceed with the Kirkstall Joint Service Centre.

## Anticipated service benefits

We recognised that the provision of these Joint Service Centres were an important strand of the Council's Strategic Plan which will contribute towards tackling the health and social inequalities prevalent in the city. Our investigation held NHS Leeds to account for their decision and provided an opportunity to identify a number of "lessons learned".

" Even as late as October 2008, NHS Leeds had been consulting widely with local residents on the proposal for a Joint Service Centre in Kirkstall. This raised people's expectations and aspirations for the area. This last minute change of heart and policy was a bitter disappointment for local residents and Ward Members, who were hoping that this project would help to kick-start the re-generation of this part of Kirkstall,

Councillor Bernard Atha  
Kirkstall Ward



That NHS Leeds be asked to submit a paper to this Board and Kirkstall ward members on the improvements they intend to make to the existing Health centre before September 2010.

## Our main recommendations

That NHS Leeds be asked to review their governance process in line with the Department of Health Code of Practice 2003 in order to ensure that

- (i) the public is advised of all matters to be considered at NHS Leeds Board meetings whether to be held in public or in private session and
- (ii) that all appropriate reports are made available at the time the agenda is released.

That the "Lessons Learned" report on the Joint Service Centre project be endorsed including the recommendations for improvement as set out in appendix 1 of our Statement.

That this Statement and recommendations be submitted to Scrutiny Board (Health) for information at its meeting in April 2010.

That Public Private Partnerships Unit submit a report to this Scrutiny Board before 31st December 2010 on the progress in implementing the recommendations for improvement detailed in our Statement.

## Other work of the Board

### City Region Governance Arrangements

We received an update on the City Regions Forerunner Agreement which the Council signed on 27th November 2009. This brings new freedoms and flexibilities devolved from central Government to promote local leadership and accelerate economic growth on transport, innovation, housing and Skills.



Public Services

### Total Place

We considered the Total Place government initiative that looks at a 'whole area' approach to public services which can lead to better services at less cost. It seeks to identify and avoid overlap and duplication between organisations – delivering a step change in both service improvement and efficiency. We have asked to receive the key findings of national pilots as they become available. Total Place is a new initiative the local level, as well as across Whitehall.

### Yorkshire Forward

In December the Chief Executive of Yorkshire Forward, Tom Riordan gave us an overview of the role and work of Yorkshire Forward. He outlined a number of schemes which have been supported by Yorkshire Forward here in Leeds and the wider region.



Leeds 2



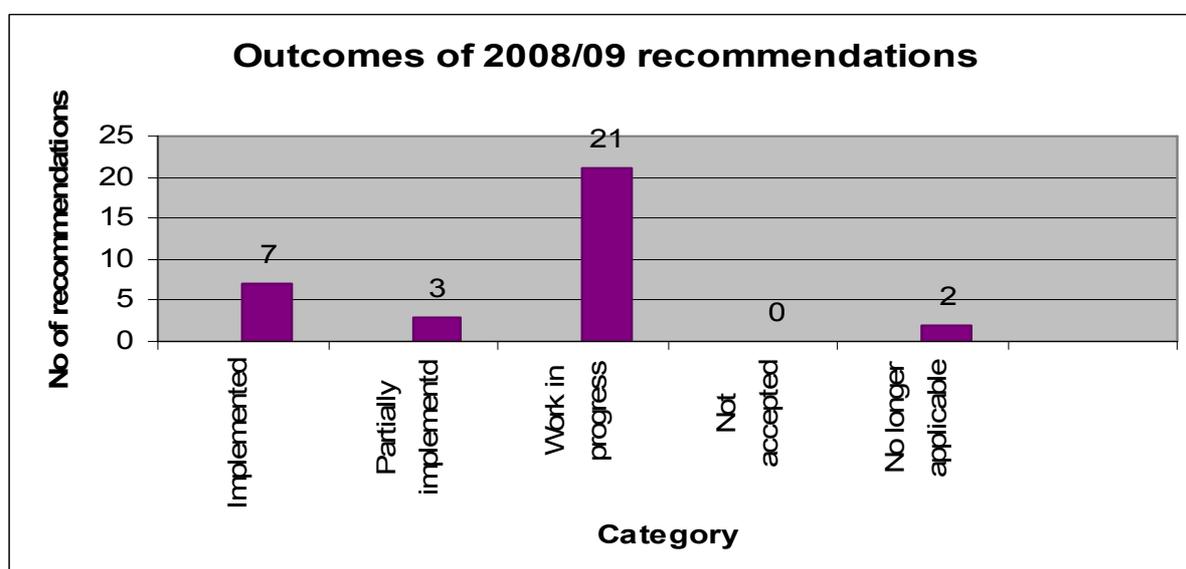
### Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030

We were consulted on the work being undertaken by Leeds Initiative to develop a new Vision for Leeds, We supported the addition in the document of a response to the current economic situation and environmental issues including climate change

## Outcome of recommendations made in 2008/09

The Scrutiny Board (City & Regional Partnerships) carried out 2 inquiries in 2008/09, which resulted in 33 recommendations. This section highlights some key examples of where these recommendations have resulted in service benefits, or otherwise added value.

- As part of our inquiry into the role of the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) in Council led community engagement we recommended that the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods co-ordinates work across the Council to undertake a Compact for Leeds awareness and compliance self assessment.. This has resulted in a review of the Compact for Leeds and a work programme to embed this across all Council activity. The department completed the review in January 2010. We are continuing to monitor this recommendation.
- In our inquiry into Skills we recommended that the Director of Children's Services work with our partners and neighbouring local authorities to ensure wherever possible that there are no artificial barriers that would prevent young people accessing the full curriculum, at the most convenient place geographically, regardless as to where local authority boundaries are. A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed jointly between the local authorities of Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield. The Executive Board approved the Memorandum on 9th December 2009 and in doing so endorsed the partnership approach we proposed. This recommendation has therefore been implemented.
- We recommended in our VCFS inquiry report that the Assistant Chief Executive Planning, Policy and Improvement consider how best to promote the aims benefits and use of the tool Talking Point. This tool has been further communicated to all internal and external stakeholders including the new A to Z of Council services, sent with Council tax booklets and through the LAA Strategy Group. Discussions are also continuing with our partners (NHS Leeds, ALMOs) about future sharing of Talking Point. This recommendation has therefore been implemented



# **The Board's full work programme 2009/10**

## **Requests for scrutiny**

**None**

## **Review of existing policy**

- Inquiry on the integrated transport strategies for Leeds and the wider region
- Statement on the Joint Service Centre at Kirkstall
- Total Place initiative

## **Development of new policy**

- City region employment and skills board

## **Monitoring scrutiny recommendations**

- Inquiry report into skills
- Inquiry report into the role of the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) in Council led community engagement

## **Performance management**

- Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030
- Comprehensive Area Assessment Report 2009

## **Briefings**

- Constitutional amendments
- KPMG scrutiny review
- City region governance arrangements
- Planning documents from partner organisations
- Yorkshire Forward's role and investment in Leeds, West Yorkshire and the wider region

## **Call Ins**

**None**