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| <b>REPORT TITLE:</b>           | <b>Discharge of Roles and Responsibilities since the last meeting of the Council</b>              |
| <b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>          | <b>Councillor Tim Swift</b>   |
| <b>AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:</b> | <b>Regeneration and Resources<br/>Leader of the Council<br/>West Yorkshire Combined Authority</b> |
| <b>DATE:</b>                   | <b>9<sup>th</sup> February 2022</b>   |

## Overview

- Positive progress re use of gainshare resources to build capacity – this will strengthen our position in terms of future funding bids
- Publication of the Government's Levelling Up White Paper – the Mayor will be writing to the Secretary of State inviting him to visit West Yorkshire and to respond to some specific concerns we have regarding the proposals
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## Governance

At the December meeting, the Combined Authority agreed to give formal notice on plans for a Bus Enhanced Partnership. This is an important step to secure additional funding from central Government, but will also pave the way for a move towards franchising if this does not deliver the improvements that local people have the right to expect. This meeting also approved the first Climate and Environment Action Plan, and discussed initial reactions to the disappointing Integrated Rail Plan, which breaks previous commitments given to the region and fails to provide the investment we need.

The Combined Authority met again on 3 February. As part of their consideration of funding priorities they agreed the use of gainshare resources to assist in the development of a pipeline of future delivery projects and programmes, with an element of this funding being available to Calderdale (subject to business case development). This is good news in that it allows us to build on our existing successful delivery to increase our capacity to bring forward future schemes that will have a positive impact across WYCA's investment priorities in our borough.

The February meeting also approved the CA budget for next year (including a freeze in the levy contribution from each local authority), approved a Healthtech strategy to help build on our strengths in this area, and agreed to restructure the Transport Committee,

particularly including Portfolio holders as voting members.

I'm pleased to note that this meeting also agreed funding of over £6m towards walking, cycling and bus travel improvements on the A629 North Corridor from Ogden to the Orange Street roundabout. This means that the project can now move to developing a full business case (FBC).

Tracy Brabin will be back in the borough over the next two months, as part of building relationships and ensuring her support for key local priorities.

- On 18 February she will visit Dean Clough and the Women's Centre.
- She will also be visiting North Halifax on 4 March – the programme for the afternoon is currently being worked up with an emphasis on gaining support for the place based approach being developed for that area following Cabinet 17 January.

The leader chaired the Climate, Energy & Environment committee in January 2022. It confirmed a commitment to addressing the links between transport and the climate agenda, and ensuring that the Climate and Environment Action Plan is embedded across the work of WYCA. The Green Jobs Taskforce met in January to bring together experts from business, education and training and the third and public sectors to work towards positioning West Yorkshire as a leader for green skills and jobs. The committee will also focus on nature recovery, supporting Calderdale's declaration of an ecological emergency at a sub-regional level.

## Delivery

Following submission of their Bus Service Improvement Plan to the DfT last October, which set a target of achieving a zero-carbon bus fleet by 2036, WYCA has bid for the first tranche of buses, with Calderdale set to gain up to eight buses on services currently operating under contract in Calderdale and Kirklees.

WYCA has submitted the business case for the £830M CRSTS (City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement) transport funding. As well as funding for major schemes, the bid proposals include an increase in the current level of capital available for highway maintenance and refurbishment.