

REPORT TITLE:	Discharge of Roles and Responsibilities since the last meeting of the Council
REPORT AUTHOR:	Councillor Tim Swift
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:	Leader of the Council West Yorkshire Combined Authority
DATE:	23rd March 2022
Governance	
<p>Mayoral Connections</p> <p>WY Mayor Tracy Brabin visited Dean Clough on Friday 18th February, along with myself, Cllr Scullion, and officers from the Regeneration department. We met with Jeremy Hall and colleagues and visited a number of businesses on site including Covea. The transformation of Dean Clough is a fantastic example of how Calderdale creates new opportunities that build on our heritage, and it was great to be able to showcase this work.</p> <p>Mayor Brabin also visited Mixenden on 4th March. Meeting local stakeholders and hearing key messages about hopes and aspirations, and the need to level up and invest in North Halifax.</p> <p>She also attended the Women's Centre and various projects and stakeholders in Todmorden the same day, helping build further links with Calderdale and a mutual understanding of our shared priorities.</p> <p>Combined Authority Decisions</p> <p>At the meeting on 17th March we recorded our thanks to Sir Roger Marsh, who is standing down as chair of the LEP after nine important years, and to Cllr Kim Groves from Leeds who has led on transport issues and been a strong voice for public transport.</p> <p>Key decisions at the meeting included:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the enhanced bus partnership proposals 	

2. Agreed some important changes to the Adult Education Budget - particularly extending the 'earnings threshold' for free training to the Real Living Wage instead of the Minimum wage, meaning more low paid employees will qualify. Good example of how devolution is being used to target help more effectively - last year almost three quarters of those accessing training through this budget lived in more deprived areas.
3. Agreed a new set of corporate strategies and objectives.
4. The proposed revised corporate objectives are as follows:
 - Creating an accessible, clean and customer focussed transport system
 - Building a sustainable, nature rich and carbon neutral region
 - Enabling a diverse, skilled workforce and accessible learning for all
 - Empowering our communities, towns and cities to thrive
 - Championing culture, sport and creativity
 - Driving economic growth and innovation to enable good jobs
 - Supporting community safety and accountable, proactive policing
5. These are underpinned by four cross cutting aims:
 - Embedding equality, diversity and inclusion
 - Tackling the climate emergency
 - Growing an inclusive economy
 - Offering great customer service
6. Agreed to fund 'capacity building' within each local authority to enable us to continue to develop new schemes - this was done on a basis of equal shares across the five councils, so particularly valuable to Calderdale with investment of almost £1.9m over three years.

Development and Delivery

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The Government have announced a new fund totalling £2.6 billion which covers the period from April 2022 to March 2025. It will cover three key themes: Community and Place, Supporting Local Businesses, and People and Skills.

Included in the fund will be a bespoke Numeracy Programme worth £559m called "Multiply", which will help adults with their numeracy skills, particularly within the workplace.

Allocations will be given three years funding at a mayoral authority level. An Investment Plan will be required for each locality to cover activities that meet the four key objectives:

1. Boosting productivity, good pay and growth
2. Spreading opportunities across public services

3. Bringing community pride
4. Empowering local communities.

The fund will have a strong emphasis on high street growth, increasing footfall, cultural and tourism investment, community pride, addressing anti-social behaviour, graffiti, and making places safe, as well as bringing back cultural and visitor heritage back and developing assets. This presents a significant opportunity support important activity in Calderdale around our strong and resilience towns priority.

In Spring we will get more direct guidance and clarity of what to include within the Investment Plan, timetable for submission and confirmation of the West Yorkshire allocation. Department for Education will also give more details about the Multiply Fund, allocation to WYCA and purpose.

A stakeholder event is being planned to help shape how the money should be allocated and to define the key priorities. This will be announced soon.

Brownfield Housing Fund (BHF)

Applications for additional BHF are now open with West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). Whilst this is a potential opportunity for landowners to obtain additional funding for their Brownfield Housing Sites, there are challenges to accessing the funding, not least around the benefit-cost ratio (BCR), which requires a BCR of at least 1 – which would deliver a positive net value. This can be challenging on more difficult sites. We will support any interested landowners with the process, in partnership with WYCA.

Fair Work Charter

The mayoral commitment to develop a fair work charter for the region that will encourage good pay, fair and flexible working conditions, and promote greater wellbeing, diversity, and social mobility within the workplace, provides a good opportunity to build on existing inclusive economy activity in Calderdale.

To help develop the charter, a consultation will be launched to refine how it will work for businesses and test out how it might work across five key aspects:

- Opportunity
- Security
- Wellbeing
- Employee Voice
- Fulfilment

Post consultation, it is envisaged there will be significant further work undertaken by to refine the Charter content and design the accreditation process (including delivery model/team), ahead a potential Autumn launch.

Gainshare

Approval has been given for gainshare resources to support pipeline development of projects and programmes across the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy in Calderdale, and the other four districts. This represents a significant opportunity to develop delivery, particularly focusing on increasing housing supply and addressing the climate emergency/

Delivery of Calderdale projects

In the past I have included information on the progress on specific Calderdale projects in this report; however this often overlaps with the reports from other Cabinet members, so these will now consistently be included in those reports.

WEST YORKSHIRE HEALTH AND CARE PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership Board met on 3rd March. As always, the Chief Executive's update report gives a great overview of what's happening in health across the ICS, and is recommended reading (all the papers are online).

Tackling health inequalities is a major priority for the Partnership, and the Board discussed progress on the action plan plus a review of the impact of Inclusion week.

We always include the voice of users within the meeting, and a discussion on the Partnership's new Suicide Strategy was preceded by a powerful video of the personal experience of someone whose wife had taken her own life. I know a number of members share a strong concern about this area and again would commend viewing both the video and the new strategy online.