

REPORT TITLE:	Discharge of Roles and Responsibilities since the last meeting of the Council
REPORT AUTHOR:	Councillor Tim Swift
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:	Regeneration and Resources Leader of the Council West Yorkshire Combined Authority
DATE:	27th July 2022

Governance

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Local Partnership Group has been established to advise West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) on the development and endorsement of the Local Investment Plans for both UKSPF and Multiply, and the subsequent development and delivery of the programmes. Cllr Scullion is representing Calderdale and Cllr Patient attends representing the West Yorkshire Climate, Energy and Environment Committee.

An MP engagement group has also been established for UKSPF and Multiply.

Development and Delivery

West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) is the lead authority for UKSPF funding in this area, with £80.5m allocated over three years from 2022/23 to 2024/25. The UKSPF Local Investment Plan will be submitted to government by WYCA by the end of July to draw down the resources, based on the previously agreed West Yorkshire Investment Strategy. This follows the submission to government of the Multiply Local Investment Plan as detailed in Cllr Dacre's report.

The Local Investment Plan will be shaped around the three pillars of the programme:

- Community and Place
- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills

It will include an allocation of resources at a borough level within the communities and place pillar, to enable local areas to design delivery in a way that best reflects local needs and opportunities. Reflecting the government's methodology, 9% of this resource will be allocated to Calderdale, totalling £2.764m over the three year period.

Given the current cost of living crisis, and increasing levels of deprivation in some of Calderdale's communities, it is proposed that this resource is focused on the Council's priority of tackling inequalities.

Taking into account metrics around deprivation, previous investment decisions and funding criteria, and the scale of the resources available in Calderdale, it is proposed that these resources are targeted on the areas of greatest need in the wards of Ovenden, Mixenden, Illingworth, Park, Warley and Town. These proposals will be the subject of a Cabinet report in August 2022.

The approach builds on Calderdale Council's Cabinet commitment in January 2022 to work with local communities and partners to build on the current and planned investment in North Halifax and to reset our relationship with the local community to work together to deliver transformational change and better outcomes for local people. UKSPF resources will be focused on helping deliver and expand on this commitment.

The West Yorkshire Finance, Resources and Corporate Committee on 12 July received a paper regarding inflationary pressures on capital programmes. The paper detailed the fact that the infrastructure programmes delivered by West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the five partner councils include projects which are reporting cost increases as a result of increased inflation costs on construction materials. In addition, scheme sponsors and contractors are reporting less control over their supply chain costs. The programme most adversely affected is the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund (TF), which commenced on 1 April 2015 and is now in its eighth year of operation.

In order to respond to the emerging funding gap, the Committee agreed to pause projects that are at risk of not being delivered within reasonable timescales, have affordability issues or are not aligned with sustainability priorities. A full review of infrastructure schemes across all capital programmes will finalise which projects are high risk and should/could be paused. Those projects could then be moved to a pipeline project list to be delivered over a longer delivery period once funding becomes available and/or future funding opportunities arise.

Clearly the priority for Calderdale is to ensure that our programme of schemes is as robust as possible within the inflationary pressures outlined above, and actively participate in the review exercise described above.

Climate, Energy and Environment

As chair of this committee, I am pleased that the Mayor and CA are committing £40m of growth fund over the next three years to tackling climate change priorities.

At the committee's recent meeting we –

- Received the latest set of climate and environment monitoring data and agreed how these should be developed for inclusion in the State of West Yorkshire report;
- Considered the innovative work taking place around catchment and natural flood management;
- Approved the forward plan for investment in flood defences;
- Debated the outcome of the work on carbon impact assessments of existing capital programmes; and
- Approved the first wave of investment programmes to go forward from the growth funding.