

**REPORT TITLE: Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework Development Plan Document update**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Cllr Moses Crook (Transport portfolio holder) Cllr Graham Turner (Regeneration portfolio holder)</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b> To update on the progress of the Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework Development Plan Document	
<b>Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutiny Panel to note the progress on the Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework Development Plan Document and timescales for production</li> </ul>	
<b>Reasons for Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutiny Panel to be sighted on progress as requested at Council on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025</li> </ul>	
<b>Resource Implications:</b> Existing resources are provided within Planning Policy but there may be a requirement for other service areas to assist with the process to final adoption.	
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>	<b>David Shepherd</b> Executive Director for Place – 14.01.26

**Electoral wards affected: All**

**Ward councillors consulted:** Information on the proposed consultation was issued to all Ward Cllrs on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026, along with the latest version of the SDF DPD document

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** No personal data is contained in this report.

**1. Executive Summary**

On 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025, Cabinet delegated approval to a Council meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025, to approve officers to commence work on a joint Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework DPD and delegate constitutional powers to approve Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 consultation at a WYCA hosted Joint Member Committee.

This report sets out the following:

- An update on progress of the production of the Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework Development Plan Document
- Timescales for final production of the Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework
- Consultation arrangements for the upcoming Regulation 18 consultation

## **2. Background Information**

### **2.1 Decision making**

A report on the Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework was presented to Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 which outlined the approach to be taken in terms of producing a joint development plan document (across five West Yorkshire districts) to support WYCA's Mass Transit programme in the light of WYCA not having statutory planning powers. A decision was taken to delegate approval of the decision to a Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025. A summary of the decisions at Council on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025 are outlined below:

- That approval be given to the making of an agreement with Leeds City Council, Bradford City Council, Wakefield Council and Calderdale Council to commence the preparation of a Joint West Yorkshire Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework Part 1 Development Plan Document.
- That authority be delegated to undertake initial Regulation 18 consultation and Regulation 19 consultation on the draft West Yorkshire Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework Development Plan Document to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Joint Member Committee, in so far as it is a council planning function relating to the Development Plan Document.
- That authority be delegated to the Joint Member Committee to authorise initial early engagement and public consultation (Regulation 18) on the draft Joint West Yorkshire Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework Development Plan Document and to prepare the submission draft and consultation for Regulation 19.

### **2.2 Progress to date**

Since September, WYCA, its consultants and the districts have been working to produce a Regulation 18 consultation document to ensure the submission of the DPD under the existing local plan system with a programme for submission prior to December 2026.

On 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025, WYCA released a press statement indicating that the mass transit programme had changed. The announcement reflects changes / resequencing to the mass transit milestone programme following a peer review and the process to review business case sign-offs which means the target for operational start of services will now move back 2/3 years from mid 2030's to late 2030's.

How this announcement affects the programme for the SDF was discussed in a workshop session on 8<sup>th</sup> January between all 5 districts and WYCA. The outcome of the session was that all districts and WYCA are keen to maintain momentum with policy development for Mass Transit to inform and provide the foundation for future policy development for all five districts. On this basis, it was determined districts should proceed on a 'business as usual' basis with the preparation of the SDF and the Regulation 18 consultation.

The consultation document is appended to this report and was circulated to all Cllrs on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 for information.

### **2.3 Mass Transit SDF timetable**

The proposed timeline for production of the document to formal submission to Secretary of State is shown below.

Action	Start	End	Who
Inaugural Joint Committee meeting (approve Reg 18 consultation and ToR)	23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 26		WYCA Joint Member Committee
Consultation (Reg 18) <sup>1</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup> Jan 26	12 <sup>th</sup> March 26	WYCA/Districts
Review response to Reg 18 Consultation and oversee preparation of draft MT SDF Part 1 for Reg 19	13 <sup>th</sup> March	June 26	WYCA/Districts
Approval submission draft of MT SDF Part 1 for consultation (Reg 19)	June 26	July 26	WYCA Joint Member Committee
Reg 19 consultation period	Aug 26	Sep 26	WYCA/Districts
Submit to SoS for Examination in Public (Reg 22)	Oct 26	Oct 26	Kirklees Full Council
Adoption (Reg 26)	Spring 27		Kirklees Full Council

## 2.4 Regulation 18 Consultation arrangements

The Regulation 18 consultation will run from Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 meeting the minimum statutory period for consultation of 6 weeks.

Whilst WYCA will be managing the consultation, it is the responsibility of each local authority to ensure compliance with legislative requirements from the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and compliance with its own Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

Officers have been liaising with WYCA, their consultants and the other four districts over SCI requirements and reaching agreement over appropriate levels of consultation for the document given its strategic nature.

An engagement strategy has been produced to support those discussions. Previous Kirklees DPD consultation methods typically include (as listed in the Councils Statement of Community Involvement):

- Sharing information internally/maximise the use of networks or communication channels used by other services or local community websites where required
- Make use of council publications such as Kirklees Together to include articles
- Make use of social networking sites in accordance with the council's policy on social media
- Make use of interactive workshops or discussion groups with key stakeholders.
- Deliver presentations or hold question and answer sessions at meetings of existing groups where resources allow.
- Hold exhibitions or road shows with unmanned displays or staffed drop-in sessions
- Make use of posters, flyers, or site notices – these may be used to raise awareness of consultation events

- Hold meetings with elected members – members will be kept informed of progress and plans through briefings, workshops, and email.
- Working with parish / town councils
- Publication of formal public notices in newspapers

It should be noted that the SCI formed an important document in the scrutiny of the “adequacy” of the council’s engagement and consultation at the examination of the existing Local Plan. The independent Inspector considered the “public consultation ... was extensive and wide ranging and elicited a high level of responses” and concluded the consultation was in compliance with the SCI and relevant regulations ([Kirklees Council Local Plan Inspector's Report](#) paragraphs 14 – 16) January 2019. It is, therefore, important moving forward that any early engagement/consultation activity required to meet statutory stages in Plan making process are shaped in the context of the SCI and the council’s Inclusive Communities Framework. The council must also comply with its public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 and will produce an Integrated Impact Assessment at key milestones of the update.

### **3. Implications for the Council**

#### **3.1 Council Plan**

The planning framework to support opportunities for West Yorkshire Mass Transit supports Council Plan priorities including improved, quality places, encouraging thriving communities, securing economic growth for the district, encouraging inclusivity. It also advocates a positive approach to working with our regional partners to deliver these joint ambitions.

#### **3.2 Financial Implications**

The drafting of the SDF has been commissioned by WYCA. Support for the process is being accommodated by existing staff resources, the revenue budget within the Planning Policy team and officer time will be recharged to WYCA via the Mass Transit collaboration agreement where appropriate. The costs associated with engagement will depend on the agreed strategy, it is anticipated support will be provided by existing staff resources, with time & materials recharged to WYCA where appropriate.

#### **3.3 Legal Implications**

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) govern the review, preparation, consultation, examination, and adoption of development plan documents. In preparing a DPD, the council amongst other things must ensure that the plan is prepared in accordance with the council’s Local Plan Timetable, have regard to national policies/guidance, comply with the council’s Statement of Community Involvement.

The Joint DPD is prepared under Section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. It will be accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal (meeting Regulation 12 and SEA Regulations 2004), HRA Screening, and EqIA. Adoption follows the statutory process: Reg.18, Reg.19, submission, Examination in Public, Adoption.

NPPF (Dec 2024) para 16 requires “early, proportionate and effective engagement”. Consultation must comply with each district’s SCI (minimum periods, access, formats, notifications).

Following the Written Ministerial Statement (Nov 2025), while the Duty to Cooperate statutory test will cease under new regs, authorities must maintain effective cooperation and

Statements of Common Ground, this Joint DPD is explicitly governed through the Joint Member Committee and is supported by a MT Statement of Intent signed by all 5 districts.

Risk of Judicial Review (JR): potential grounds include procedural non-compliance with SCI if applicable, inadequate SEA/SA scope (due to limited timescales), misleading presentation of route certainty, or failure to demonstrate effective cooperation between all 5 districts.

The Council must comply with its public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 and additionally will produce an Integrated Impact Assessment as required.

### 3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

The draft SDF supports the WYCA Regional Climate Plan and Council's Climate Action Plan.

### 3.5 Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment

**Key Risks include:**

- SCI compliance – as each LPA has its own SCI, the SDF DPD must comply with the minimum consultation requirements.
- Programme reform/interdependency: National plan-making changes and Mass Transit resequencing may alter dependencies and public/political perceptions.

**Integrated Impact Assessment:**

- An IIA was completed for the SDF DPD: [Integrated Impact Assessments | Kirklees Council](#)

## 4. Consultation & Engagement

Council officers are working closely with WYCA colleagues on the development of the SDF DPD document.

The planned consultation will last for a period of 6 weeks, this is the statutory minimum given the short timescale pre-purdah which makes it compliant from a legal perspective however it will be a decision for each LPA how to undertake additional engagement and comms dependent on the nature of the document and previous local plan engagement activity.

It is anticipated that Kirklees will:

- Contact residents/organisations directly who have expressed interest in planning policy document production (approx. 2500) via email and post (dependant on preference)
- Host a landing page on Kirklees website with direct links to the WYCA Your Voice consultation
- Hold member briefing sessions (where advised/required)
- Place copies of the document in deposit locations at Huddersfield and Dewsbury Customer Service centres and produce posters to ensure visibility
- Use Kirklees Together to highlight the consultation to residents
- Use Kirklees Involve consultation portal to ensure the consultation is visible internally
- Use social media feeds to promote the consultation
- Publish a formal public notice in both the Dewsbury Reporter and Huddersfield Examiner of the impending consultation

## 6. Next steps and timelines

The timeline for the production, consultation and governance of the final Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework Development Plan Document is outlined in section 2.3.

Work will continue with the programme areas outlined in the report. Further changes implemented through revised national planning policy, planning reforms or legislation relating to the production of development plan documents will continue to be monitored and reviewed.

## 8. Contact officers

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## 9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

- Cabinet report 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – Joint West Yorkshire Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework Development Plan Document (Reference to Council) [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday 8th July 2025, 1.30 pm | Kirklees Council](#)
- Council report 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework (SDF) Development Plan Document (Reference from Cabinet) [Agenda for Council on Wednesday 17th September 2025, 5.30 pm | Kirklees Council](#)
- Kirklees Local Plan adopted 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 [www.kirklees.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/localplan)

## 10 Appendices

Appendix 1: Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework Development Plan Document  
Regulation 18 consultation document

## 11 Service Director responsible

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