

**Name of meeting:** Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Title of report:** Effective Regional Working: Progress Report

**Purpose of report**

To provide the Management Committee with a progress report on effective regional working.

<b>Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	n/a
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a></b>	n/a
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	n/a
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>	Naz Parkar 16/11/2017
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?</b>	n/a
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?</b>	n/a
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	Cllr Sheard and Cllr Pandor

**Electoral wards affected:** All

**Ward councillors consulted:** Not Applicable

**Public or private:** Public

## 1. Summary

Kirklees Council has always been a strong advocate and willing participant in regional working. This report updates members on recent progress setting out why regional working continues to be important and focussing on where Kirklees communities have benefited in terms of investment and projects.

## 2. Information required to take a decision

### Background

- 2.1 The Leeds City Region (LCR) Partnership was first formed in a declaration made by 11 council leaders at a City Region summit in 2004 and has been at the forefront of cross-boundary working for over a decade. The current arrangements are built on a proven track record of informal regional working and a consensus that the potential of the region could only be realised through cross-boundary local authorities working alongside an entrepreneurial private sector.
- 2.2 Key milestones include;
  - Leaders Board formally constituted as a joint committee in 2007.
  - Established a business-led Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and strategic plan in 2011.
  - Signed City Deal in 2012 with government which provided the opportunity to manage a devolved transport budget through the vehicle of a new Combined Authority.
- 2.3 The West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) was founded on 1st April 2014 by the five West Yorkshire constituent District Councils; Bradford, Calderdale, Leeds, Wakefield and Kirklees. The City of York Council and the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) have been made associate members.
- 2.4 WYCA was established to take on board devolved Government funding and powers related to the 2012 Leeds City Region City Deal and 2014 Local Growth Deal. Both of these included new funding and decision-making powers to promote economic growth in the Leeds City Region, of which Kirklees is a key constituent member. (**Appendix 1** captures the current decision-making arrangements)
- 2.5 Although we've discussed some of the points below before, it's worth re-iterating why regional working continues to be important for Kirklees communities:
  - **Contribute to growth and share in benefits**  
The Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for LCR states that between 2014 and 2021 £5.2bn additional economic output will be achieved resulting in 62,000 extra jobs. The LCR secured £572.9 million in the initial round of Growth Deal Funding, the largest settlement in the country.
  - **Future government funding opportunities** will come through and be administered via the LCR Partnership.
  - **Connectivity is a major issue**, particularly in terms of accessing the numerous employment centres across the district (Kirklees has the highest net outflow of workers in the LCR i.e. residents traveling into other districts to find work) and for freight movements for our numerous small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).
  - **Quality of life** for the majority of our communities is dependent on the success of the wider West Yorkshire and Leeds City Region partnerships.

- **Strong collective voice** to influence national decision-making; we cannot do it by ourselves
- **Widespread recognition that housing markets, connectivity and local economies** do not reflect administrative boundaries so we have to work accordingly.
- **Economic resilience** - individual councils working in isolation will not avert the current economic situation. Strong partnership working is essential, coupled with the efficiencies and innovation that working together brings.

### **Benefits and Success**

- 2.6 The Local Growth Deal in particular provides a £1bn-plus package of devolved Government investment over a six-year period, including a £420m 20-year “gainshare” arrangement on transport, which has enabled WYCA and its local authority partners to put in place an overall £1bn Transport Fund to improve transport links in West Yorkshire and York.
- 2.7 To date Kirklees has benefitted from around £37.5m investment from WYCA and the LEP to boost the local economy and create jobs. Key benefits realised in Kirklees include (please note that these are a few examples of and not an exhaustive list of all benefits realised):
- **Kirklees College’s Process Manufacturing Centre completed following a total of £3.1m Growth Deal investment** – an employer-led training centre for skills development in the process manufacturing and engineering industries that is creating apprenticeship opportunities for young people and a future talent base for Kirklees’ nationally significant manufacturing and engineering sector.
  - **96 Kirklees SMEs have been provided with intensive support to grow** through the LEP Growth Service – a one-stop-shop for business support information for City Region SMEs. Through this service, WYCA provides 50% match funding for 1.5 FTE Growth Managers, employed by Kirklees Council.
  - **£1.7m investment has been provided to 34 Kirklees SMEs**, enabling them to grow and create job and apprenticeship opportunities for local people.
  - **23 business people have been recruited to provide inspiration and mentoring to local school pupils** through the LEP’s Enterprise Adviser programme. According to research by the Careers and Enterprise Company, interactions between young people and business are proven to enhance those young people’s academic and future career prospects.
  - **130 businesses have improved their productivity and employees’ skills** through investment in training via the LEP Skills Service.
- 2.8 In addition, key projects in Kirklees that have benefitted from investment and support via WYCA include (again, not an exhaustive list of all projects supported):
- Involvement in the **20-year West Yorkshire-plus Transport Fund** including over £100m available for highway improvement in Kirklees such as the A629 Halifax to Huddersfield corridor, M62 Junction 24a, A62 and A644 corridors and the A653 Leeds to Dewsbury corridor. In addition to this the district will also benefit from a joint highways efficiency and bus package, aimed at improving road junctions across West Yorkshire.
  - WYCA will lead on improvements to rail gateways including investment in Huddersfield Station and a rail park and ride package across West Yorkshire, which includes improvements to facilities at Mirfield station.

- Highways schemes through **£6.4m Local Transport Plan (LTP)** investment in Kirklees. These include network management, the Dalton-Deighton Greenway, Huddersfield town centre (including improved cycle links), a new transport Hub in Heckmondwike and casualty reduction projects. In addition Kirklees Council is involved in the joint Cycle City Ambition Programme and has received £650,000 towards improved cycle links as part of this investment.
- **£15.1m investment** approved for the Kirklees College Dewsbury Learning Quarter, to deliver the landmark town centre building, Pioneer House, and increase apprenticeships in the area
- Over **£1.6m support for apprenticeships in Kirklees**, including grants to local businesses employing apprentices and support for young people via the Kirklees Apprenticeship Hub. This is the second highest level of apprenticeship support anywhere in Leeds City Region.
- A recent award of £500,000 to support people in Kirklees out of fuel poverty

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

As stated above, regional working is critical to the economic success of our district and communities particularly in terms of delivering key spatial projects, connectivity and economic resilience. Without active involvement and participation Kirklees would lose out on significant investment in our economy and infrastructure.

### 4. **Consultees and their opinions**

Not applicable.

### 5. **Next steps**

5.1 Kirklees will continue to be a key player at the sub-regional level and work towards achieving better outcomes for our communities. In particular;

- Working with WYCA and other authorities to deliver our key spatial projects e.g. North Kirklees Growth Zone, Cooper Bridge and a wide variety of projects in Huddersfield.
- Continue to have representation at the key meetings in order to contribute effectively on key agendas and influence outcomes.
- Better sharing of information and intelligence internally for both members and officers e.g. the Cross-party Regional Working Group.
- Stronger alliance with other authorities to 'feed off' each other's success
- Making the most of opportunities (funding and investment etc) when they initially appear.
- More effective 'horizon' scanning so we're aware of what is coming up and are able to respond

### 6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

Note the contents of the report and ongoing progress with regional working.

### 7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

Not Applicable.

### 8. **Contact officer**

Nick Howe

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9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Not applicable.

10. **Service Director responsible**

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