



Report of the Chief Executive to the meeting of the Executive to be held on 13th July 2023.

H**Subject:****Working with the Mayor of West Yorkshire and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority****Summary statement:**

This report summarises some of the key activity undertaken over 2022-23 through partnership working with the Mayor of West Yorkshire and West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) on shared priorities and looks ahead to the forthcoming year.

Equality & Diversity:

Equity, diversity and inclusion are at the heart of the missions and visions set out in the West Yorkshire Plan. The Plan has been agreed by the mayor and the member authorities of WYCA including Bradford. It includes specific commitments to supporting women and girls, those people who are disadvantaged in the labour market, deprived communities and to addressing child poverty and fuel poverty.

Kersten England
Chief Executive

Portfolio:

Leader of the Council and Office of the Chief Executive

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**Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Corporate**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 West Yorkshire is a place of scale and significance, home to over 2.4m people, 95,000 businesses and a £2.5bn devolution deal. Bradford Council is a committed, active and influential member of West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) working and collaborating with member authorities and the Mayor of West Yorkshire to deliver on our shared priorities.

2. Progress on priorities

2.1 Over the last year, the Council has continued to work with the Mayor to make progress in priority areas including transport, skills, training and jobs, backing for our businesses and the regional economy, the delivery of new homes, investment in the creative industries, tackling climate change and promoting community safety.

Key areas of work include:

- **City of Culture.** WYCA have provided ongoing support for the delivery of Bradford City of Culture 2025. City of Culture status could see the district bring in an extra £700m, create 3,000 jobs and attract over a million visitors as well as building new skills and capturing the social and well-being benefits of culture and cultural participation.
- **UK Shared Prosperity Fund.** Bradford received its £7.5m share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2022 for a three-year programme focused on community. **Taste: BD** was a new flagship event for the city centre funded by UKSPF which hosted a celebration of local food, drink and craft providers. Bringing opportunities to the city centre businesses and those from across the district who desire a showcase.
- **Employment West Yorkshire.** We have jointly developed the Employment West Yorkshire programme which is a significant investment of £3.2m into the district over the next two years (£12m for West Yorkshire). The approach of a regional framework and coordination but a locally hub to enable led programme development, implementation and partnerships to meet community and local labour market need. This effectively allows us to ensure that opportunity flows to those most at need of good jobs.
- **Transforming Cities.** Support to progress Bradford Transforming City schemes which are about to commence and will improve the attractiveness of the city centre creating a stronger sense of arrival and a much safer, sustainable modern city centre.
- **Climate Change.** The Bradford Clean Air Team are represented on the West Yorkshire Environment & Climate Change Lead Officer Group where development of work programmes through the Gainshare Programme has progressed. Work streams include Better Homes Hub, Flood Resilience and Solar panels. Through this Bradford are launching the Better Neighbourhood Fund on the 17th of July 2023 which will see £400,000 of available funding in Bradford for community groups to apply for, with an emphasis on supporting deprived communities.

- **Safer streets.** The Knife Angel commemorating victims and pushing for an end to knife crime was displayed in Bradford City Centre during April 2023. The unveiling of this statue coincided with the Youth Service launching its anti-violence awareness month. Visitors were asked to pledge to support the part they would play in ending knife crime. West Yorkshire authorities have also worked together to put in a joint bid for the Government's 'Safer Streets Fund' and the WYCA Funding Team co-ordinate the bid, this has been successful in securing several hundred thousand pounds for the district over a three-year period.
- **Regeneration & New Homes.** A new partnership with Homes England has been agreed will see the delivery of thousands of new homes across the district including up to 4,000 homes in Bradford City Centre. Creating economic growth and good housing are key wider determinants of health and is acknowledged as such through our partnership. Bradford with support from the WY Mayor and WYCA secured:
 - £2.9m grant funding for Highpoint for the remediation and refurbishment of a 13-storey tower former bank that has been vacant for a considerable time into eighty-seven residential apartments
 - £7.5 grant funding through Getting Building Fund to deliver a BREEAM excellent office scheme on a key site in the city centre. The scheme will be completed at the end of summer 2023.

3. Looking Ahead

3.1 Over the next year Bradford will continue to develop our collaborative partnership approach with the Mayor and WYCA on key issues and shared priorities. We want to work with the Combined Authority to streamline regional processes and cut through national bureaucracy to unlock innovation and support the growth that we all want to see.

3.2.1 Some key areas of focus for our shared endeavours in the year ahead are:

- Working to support the provision of enhanced infrastructure including a new through line and station for Bradford City Centre. This remains key to Bradford's plans for regeneration and enhanced connectivity which will fuel our economic ambitions.
- Securing additional investment into the Integrated Employment and Skills System, specifically to finance school-based careers services.
- Backing and funding creative industry and cultural events to support Bradford's City of Culture and ensure that there is a West Yorkshire impact and legacy.
- Supporting to deliver strategic housing priorities and sites and funding to progress special priority areas such as Keighley and Bradford Southern Gateway.
- Continued formation of the West Yorkshire Investment Zone to represent Bradford's schemes, initiatives and overall regeneration ambition.
- Putting Bradford's priorities at the heart of the West Yorkshire Mass Transit Plan.
- Working towards achieving our Net Zero ambitions including around the HyBradford hydrogen hub initiative.
- Jointly lobbying Government to secure the next trail blazer devolution deal to obtain the funding flexibility and greater powers needed to unlock the growth potential in West Yorkshire.

4. Playing our part in the plan for West Yorkshire

4.1 The Mayor of West Yorkshire has made ten pledges to the region to make our communities the best to grown up in and the best to grown old in. These pledges underpin the working relationship with Bradford Council and we work in earnest to support the Mayor in achieving the outcomes our residents deserve. The pledges can be found by following this link: [10 pledges she made when elected](#). It is noticeable that the work we have achieved together this year provides some critical progress on these pledges. Once example being the critical Homes England agreement that will allow us to progress towards the goal of building 5,000 sustainable homes including council houses and affordable homes.

4.2 The recently published West Yorkshire Plan sets out a series of missions designed to build a prosperous, happy, well-connected, sustainable, and safe West Yorkshire. The Plan recognises that partnership and collaboration across different local authorities, sectors and services will be key to its delivery. Bradford District’s significant asset base including its young workforce, enterprising and innovative businesses and institutions, diverse cultural heritage, vibrant voluntary and community sector and outstanding quality of life offer will play an important part in the realisation of the missions.

5 Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report however if a trailblazer devolution deal is secured that may have legal implications that will be subject to advice as discussions and negotiations progress.

6 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The sustainable development goals underpin the work we do in partnership for the benefit of the Bradford District. This has ensured that the West Yorkshire plan states one of our key missions is to create ‘A sustainable West Yorkshire, rich with greener lives and communities.’

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None from the contents of this report but both Bradford Council and WYCA are committed to work together to deliver a Net Zero carbon economy by 2038.

COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

The partnership detailed in this report have two strategic documents that driver the organisations and staff’s focus. Both have a commitment towards safety of residents:

West Yorkshire Plan – to create ‘A safe West Yorkshire, free of the fear of crime so everyone can flourish.’

Bradford Council Plan – ‘to create safe, strong and active communities.’

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None from the contents of this report.

TRADE UNION

None from the contents of this report.

WARD IMPLICATIONS

Our relationship with the Mayor of West Yorkshire and WYCA is based on the principle of working out what level delivery will create the greatest impact. One example of work mention in this report is the delivery of the UKSPF – some of the funding focused on the costs of living was passported for ward level distribution.

IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The West Yorkshire plan is the vehicle that drives our partnership interactions it has been designed to benefit all residents including Children and families. The work outlined from this year has benefitted children and families including the work on creating safe places for women and girls to the environmental work to ensure risk of the impact of the climate emergency is reduced for future generations.

ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

None from the contents of this report.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive note the contents of this report and reaffirm Bradford’s ongoing commitment to working in partnership with the Mayor of West Yorkshire and as part of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to build a prosperous, safe and sustainable West Yorkshire in which everyone has the chance to realise their potential.