

## **Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council**

**Cllr Andrew Waller**

---

### **West Yorkshire Combined Authority Meetings:**

Since my last report in March 2018, a number of meetings have taken place of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, of which York is a member:

#### **5<sup>th</sup> April:**

The Authority considered a number of reports including ‘Embedding Growth across the City Region.’ This reviewed current schemes, including York’s support for financial resilience and inclusion for people in areas of the city ranked amongst the most deprived nationally. This will be developed into a policy to cover the whole combined authority area.

The meeting also considered the draft Contract for Funding between the EIB (European Investment Bank) and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. This sought approval for the signing of the EIB Contract, with a view to progressing it through decision point 5 - all final approvals were delegated to the Combined Authority’s Managing Director.

It was reported that the Green Economy Panel had welcomed the offer of funding from the EIB. The LEP Board had considered the report at its meeting on 27 March 2018 and recommended that the Combined Authority sign the contract and proceed to establishing the Accelerator by September 2018.

#### **10<sup>th</sup> May:**

The meeting discussed the ‘Transforming Cities Fund’ application from the Leeds City Region. As part of this, the Leeds City Region HS2 Connectivity Strategy was considered to provide a strong fit with the objectives of the DfT guidance. The total funding was for £1.7 billion, as announced in the November 2017 budget, but £840 million was made available for competitive bid to non-Mayoral areas.

**28<sup>th</sup> June:**

The meeting considered the committee appointments for the subsequent year, updates to governance policies.

It has been important to ensure that there is combined support for York Station improvements in the light of considerable attention given to Leeds Station, as part of the HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail, and other enhancements to the rail network. Whilst the frontage of the station will be receiving WYCA funding, the actual station itself is in need of a similar upgrade to make it more accessible to passengers, and to cope with increasing number of users.

**Leeds City Region LEP Meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> June:**

At this meeting the Governance policies were updated.

These have covered the investment decisions on the roundabouts on the Outer Ring Road, of which there is a requirement to demonstrate improvements to sustainable transport.

Train links have been discussed following the failure of the East Coast Mainline Franchise, and I have ensured that the authority has written to ask for the protection of the jobs within the city. Equally, the difficulties relating to the timetable problems for Northern Rail.

The next meeting of the LEP Board will be on 20th September.

**Minerals and Waste Strategy:**

The development of the 500m protection policy – the Inspector has been minded to agree the 500m zone, along with the protection of the land which provides the historic setting for the City of York.

There was a public session on April 13<sup>th</sup> specifically to consider these matters. I have written to the Minister to request that the city be able to decide for itself, following recent Government statements about access to land for fracking.

### **Community Centres:**

Plans for the replacement Burton Stone Lane Community Centre have progressed with the granting of planning permission. The new centre will be able to provide the space for local support groups to tackle isolation, and provide early advice and support.

The progress that has been made with the Hubs at two of our community centres demonstrates the range of health, housing, benefits and job advice which can be given within a community setting. This is a tribute to the dedication of officers in running the sessions for long enough to build up a sense of trust with residents. This has previously been identified by LCR LEP as examples of the engagement by York in early intervention. The outcomes of these sessions are being compiled for peer review.

### **Clean Air Day:**

Clean Air Day was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> June saw a wide range of activities held across the city. I would like to thank officers, councillors, volunteer residents, and partner organisations who helped to promote the message on the day. Improving air quality will be enhanced with the switching of power from old diesel to electric and hybrid vehicles.

The day also saw the launch of the consultation on the Clean Air Zone, which would be the first one set up by a council voluntarily. In the meantime, getting the message across with the need to cut down idling of engines will be important, and considerable attention was made to this.

### **Investment in Street services:**

The Executive has approved the reinvestment of the underspend from the 2017/17 year into street level services. This will:

- Create a new work programme for footpath repairs across the city.
- Establish an additional team to carry out pothole maintenance.

- Provide new resources for enforcement teams to control dangerous parking, with a special focus on improving safety around schools.
- Allow residents who have had recycling boxes damaged or stolen to claim two free boxes per year.
- Use the Economic Infrastructure Fund to support high street shopping in Haxby and Acomb.
- Create a fund to support voluntary and community groups who wish to develop innovative ideas on improve and preserve our green spaces.

### **Waste and Recycling:**

I have met with regularly with officers to ensure that mitigating steps have been taken to address the HGV driver shortage, which has had a considerable impact on the collection of bins in the city. A clear policy of prioritising the collection of grey bins/black sacks and recycling boxes was established.

There is ongoing work to redress the situation and to provide more resilience in the service going forward. I would like to thank staff who put in a considerable amount of effort by working additional hours, particularly in the recent high temperatures, to address the backlog.