



WEST YORKSHIRE

COMBINED AUTHORITY

West Yorkshire Combined Authority: What does it mean for the front line?

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What context is local government operating in?

- Local government living in “the perfect storm”
- Over 40% budget cuts between 2010-2018
- Cuts across all public sector organisation
- Demand for social care services rising
- Welfare changes impacting on our most disadvantaged communities
- Changing demographics and high citizen expectations of public services and national context re Children's Safeguarding, economy etc.
- ‘Status quo’ is no longer affordable or deliverable

Where do Combined Authorities fit in?

IPPR 2014 'Condition Of Britain' report posits 3 levels of future public services;

Central Government: 'Strategic Direction'. Central Government setting out a “... *small number of national priorities and core entitlements in relation to social policy, and make clear how these will shape spending rounds and funding decisions*”. Includes core entitlements and minimum standards – whilst giving local areas more freedom to decide how services are delivered.

Combined Authorities and cross boundary partnerships: 'Jobs and Growth'. Partnerships greater powers to lead local economic development, based on functional economic areas. Include wider transport, business support and employment agendas and ... “*over time, for controlling housing expenditure to build more homes and reduce reliance on housing benefit*”.

Local Government: 'Powerful Councils'. Individual local authorities should take lead ‘*in tackling complex social problems that require concerted action by local services, and where deep relationships between citizens and practitioners are essential*’

What is the West Yorkshire Combined Authority?

- Consists of 5 West Yorkshire Authorities plus York Council and the Leeds City Region LEP
- Responsible for realising the ambitions articulated within the Strategic Economic Plan through delivery of the £527 million Local Growth Fund Deal:
 - ✓ Improving transport connectivity, accelerating housing growth and town centre regeneration
 - ✓ Developing a skilled and flexible workforce
 - ✓ Supporting growing business and promoting resource efficiency
- Created and oversees the £1bn West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund

Why is the West Yorkshire Combined Authority a good thing?

- Joins together strategic decision making on economic development, regeneration and transport
- Guarantees maximum impact derived from sub-regional/ regional investment
- Enables more decisions to be taken locally rather than in Whitehall
- Supports job creation and economic growth by securing additional government funding
- Enables strong pan-northern working
- Allows Councils to come together where collaboration **makes sense**

What are the Combined Authority's key driving principles?

Devolution

Localism

Subsidiarity

Growth

What does the Combined Authority mean for front line services?

In the current context within local government.....*prevention, the modernisation of public services and enabling communities to do more for themselves, is as critical as creating economies of scale*

What does the Combined Authority mean for front line services?

Future role of local government is
‘leader of place’.....

‘Place’ is primarily neighbourhoods,
communities, districts – not sub-regions!

Capacity and resources often lie within
communities that need them most

What does the Combined Authority mean for front line services?

- Combined Authority only has the power to collaborate on transport, economic development and regeneration issues
- Economic growth underpins the local authorities' funding base: devolution agenda going to strengthen this link further
- Collaborative approach to economic growth allows in-house capacity to focus on social and community agendas and services
- Combined Authorities support exchange of learning and best practise allowing us to be more innovative about the way we deliver services within our districts
- Local authorities across West Yorkshire have been formally collaborating on the economic growth agenda for over 10 years – the focus has never been front line services

What does the Combined Authority mean for front line services?

- Not a replacement for local authorities but about enabling collaboration that delivers value unachievable through working within our own boundaries
- Not at the expense of collaborative opportunities with other partners within the same district
- Combined Authority and the districts focussed on the same objectives of ‘jobs and growth’ for the benefit of all our communities
- Delivering jobs and growth will reduce the demand on already squeezed local services

What does the Combined Authority mean for front line services?

- Financial imperative to explore additional collaborative opportunities but collaborative opportunities don't need to be 'bottom up'
- Additional powers from the Highways Agency, Environment Agency and BIS will allow us more control locally.
- Collaboration that enhances capacity, improves resilience and reduces duplication will strengthen our front line services
- Opportunity to review public services on local footprint
- Communities will always associate their local members with front line service delivery.....accountability is key!

What does the Combined Authority hope to have achieved in 5 years time?

Outcomes:

- Integrated transport plan
- Devolved funding and fiscal freedom
- Fast tracked economic growth
- Effectiveness from merged functions and collaborations



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