

West Yorkshire (WY) Devolution

Key actions are progressing to secure the West Yorkshire Devolution Deal. As you may be aware, a 'minded-to deal' was agreed by the five WY council leaders with the Chancellor in March and is published on the Government's website (link below).

West Yorkshire would then join London, West Midlands, Greater Manchester, Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, Tees Valley, North of the Tyne, West of England, Sheffield City Region and Liverpool City Region as a mayoral combined authority area with sub-national devolution arrangements.

A Consultation took place over the summer on the deal and the key elements of governance and arrangements for West Yorkshire Combined Authority as a Mayoral Combined Authority – one that must feature a Mayor for West Yorkshire following the Government's approach and current devolution legislation.

A Scheme has been produced that sets out proposals to change the governance arrangements of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (the Combined Authority), by adopting a mayoral model (including the Mayor exercising key functions like Planning, Transport as well as those currently exercised by the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire) and making related changes to constitutional arrangements. It also sets out proposals for the Combined Authority to be delegated additional functions.

The next stage will be key reports to the five West Yorkshire Local Authorities in early November on the Draft Order, with Bradford Council's Executive and Extraordinary Council Meeting 24th November. Subject to HM Government provision of the necessary draft regulations, papers are due to be published on the 16th November. It is expected that the Order will be laid before parliament in early December.

The Deal remains subject to ratification of the deal by all partners and the statutory requirements necessary, including the consent of all councils affected and parliamentary approval of the secondary legislation implementing the provisions of this Deal.

More information for the public is likely to be produced and distributed by WYCA and HM Government should the deal progress Winter 2020/early 2021.

West Yorkshire Minded-to Deal, March 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/west-yorkshire-devolution-deal>

WYCA Devolution pages including the current Scheme

<https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/about-us/devolution/>

HM Government will produce WY guidance similar to what has been produced for other Mayoral Combined Authorities MCAs.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/devolution-and-mayors-what-does-it-mean>

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