

# NORTHERN PROPERTY AND TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT 2026

23 APRIL 2026 | MANCHESTER



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Ahead of [Northern Property and Transport Development 2026](#), taking place on 23 April in Manchester, **Helen Ellerton, Head of Transport Policy, West Yorkshire Combined Authority** shares the role of devolution and what steps are needed to improve connectivity across the North

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF DEVOLUTION IN DRIVING PROJECTS FORWARD? WHAT NEW DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE BEING UNLOCKED BY INCREASED LOCAL DECISION- MAKING?

Devolution enables local decision making to take into account local priorities, bringing funding and opportunities together in a much greater and more integrated way. This will enable more place-based and focused delivery of programmes. In West Yorkshire we are due to enter our Integrated Settlement from April this year, which provides us with the opportunity to bring together funding that enables delivery on joint outcomes.

## HOW CAN TRANSPORT SCHEMES BE DELIVERED TO MAXIMISE THE PROPERTY OPPORTUNITIES IN SURROUNDING AREAS?

A transit-oriented development approach is key to delivering broader economic and transport outcomes. By focussing on increasing density around key locations on routes and embedding wider connectivity

can increase land values. In West Yorkshire we are in the process of moving our bus services to franchising and working on a programme for mass transit, both of which enable us to use transport to bring forward key development opportunities. Franchising our bus services gives us the opportunity to make the bus network operate in a way which is beneficial to integrating where people live and work better as well as embedding new transport modes as we progress our programme for Mass Transit.

## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS NEEDED TO IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY ACROSS THE NORTH TO SUPPORT MAJOR REGENERATION AND COMMERCIAL GROWTH?

Continue to champion a devolved model that enables funding to be spent in the right way within local area.

Also delivery of the Northern Growth Strategy will enable a strong position on cross connectivity and realise the benefits of investments already made, such as TransPennine Route Upgrade

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