

SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

ROTHERHAM TOWN HALL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2014

PRESENT:

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Barnsley MBC (Chair)
Councillor Eion Watts, Bolsover DC (Vice Chair)

Councillor John Burrows, Chesterfield BC
Councillor Julie Dore, Sheffield CC
Councillor Simon Greaves, Bassetlaw DC
Councillor Glyn Jones, Doncaster MBC
Councillor Lesley Roberts, Peak District NPA
Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, Derbyshire Dales DC

Ruth Adams, SCR Executive Team
Fiona Boden, SCR Executive Team
Neal Byers, SYPTE
Peter Dale, Doncaster MBC
Andrew Frosdick, Barnsley MBC (Monitoring Officer)
Neil Johnson, Chesterfield BC
Martin Kimber, Rotherham MBC
Martin McCarthy, SYJS
John Mothersole, Sheffield CC
Ben Still, SCR Executive Team / SYPTE
Neil Taylor, Bassetlaw DC
Diana Terris, Barnsley MBC (Clerk)
Craig Tyler, SYJS
Eugene Walker, Sheffield CC (Treasurer)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Baxter, Mayor R Jones, A Rhodes, R Stone and A Western

1 APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed Members, officers and the members of the public present to the meeting.

Members' apologies were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were noted.

3 URGENT ITEMS

No urgent items were requested.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

No items were noted.

5 VOTING RIGHTS FOR NON-CONSTITUENT MEMBERS

It was confirmed that no items require voting rights to be conferred on non-constituent Members.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

The South Yorkshire Leaders declared an interest in the Superfast Broadband initiative, as discussed at minute 18.

7 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

No reports or questions from Members were received.

8 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

9 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 02 JUNE 2014

RESOLVED, that:

- i) The minutes of the meeting of the Combined Authority held on 02 June are agreed to be an accurate record.

10 AUDIT COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

A report was received requesting consideration of appropriate arrangements for the operation by the Combined Authority of an Audit Committee.

Members were advised that now the Combined Authority has been established operationally, there is a need to examine in greater detail suitable arrangements for the operation of an Audit Committee function for the Authority, to exercise appropriate oversight with regard to internal control, risk and governance assurance arrangements.

It was confirmed that provision has been included in the Constitution for there to be an Audit Committee. The terms of reference for the Committee were provided.

Members' attention was drawn to the Committee's delegated powers to consider and approve the Authority's annual accounts and External Audit Report. It was therefore noted that it would therefore be timely to constitute the Audit Committee formally and call its first meeting as there is a specific statutory requirement for the Combined Authority to receive the external Auditor's report and the 2013/14 accounts in respect of the former ITA, responsibility for whose functions has passed to the Combined Authority. It is necessary for this report to be approved by 30th September 2014.

It was suggested that whilst not essential to embark on a separate exercise to recruit additional non-elected members to the Committee; best practise needs to be followed and consideration will be given to how best introduce such members onto the Committee to complement the assurance role.

Members were advised that there may be the scope to rationalise the Audit Committee function of the PTE with the new Audit Committee established for the Combined Authority. A further report in respect of this matter will be presented to a future meeting of the Authority.

RESOLVED:

- i) That Members now be appointed to the Audit Committee of the Authority, provision for which has been made in the Authority's Constitution.
- ii) That a nomination be sought from each of the Constituent and Non-Constituent Authorities to be appointed to the Committee.
- iii) That an appropriate cycle of quarterly meetings of the Committee be established.
- iv) That further consideration be given in due course to the co-opting of non-elected members to the Committee.

11 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CA CONSTITUTION

A report was received requesting the Combined Authority Members' endorsement of a number of amendments to the Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority Constitution.

It was noted that at the inaugural meeting of the Combined Authority it was agreed that the Constitution will remain subject to review and that recommended amendments will be reported to the Authority for ratification. Article 15 of the

Constitution (Review and Revision of the Constitution) allows for the Monitoring Officer to monitor and review the operation of the constitution.

Members were informed that the proposed amendments have been identified via discussions with officers and following the valued input from the public, notably Sheffield for Democracy. It was noted that in addition to formal amendments to the constitution, such engagements have identified further opportunities for the publication of more procedural information via the SCR website.

The proposed changes were noted as:

- i) Part 2 Article 15 para 15.3 (p.21) Review and revision of the Constitution - Change 'Assembly' to 'Authority'
- ii) Part 4 (from p.28) Responsibility for Functions - Change header numbering from 'Part 5' to 'Part 4' and paragraph numbering from para 2.5.
- iii) Part 5A (p.50) Public engagement - This should reference 'encouragement for all member Authorities to advertise Combined Authority meeting dates, or, provide clear links to where this information can be found'.
- iv) Part 5A para 30.9 (p.62) Appointment of Committees and Subcommittees - Change 'Standards Committee' to 'Overview and Scrutiny Committee'
- v) Part 5B para 3.1 (p.70) Chairing the Transport Committee - Change 'The [transport] Committee must appoint a Chair and Vice Chair from among its Members appointed' to 'A Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee will be appointed by resolution of the Authority'.
- vi) Part 5B para 4.2 (p.71) Transport Committee Meetings - References to 'the Annual Meeting' may be removed as the Transport Committee will not hold such a meeting
- vii) Part 6D (p.98) Members Allowances Scheme - Section to be completed as per agreement (and in accordance with Article 3.14).
- viii) Part 6E (p.100-105) Policies, Procedures and Rules - Change references to 'SYJS Intranet' to 'Combined Authority's website'
- ix) It is proposed that a number of minor formatting errors will also be addressed.

RESOLVED, that:

- i) Members agree to the incorporation of the proposed amendments to the Constitution.
- ii) The Constitution be amended as requested as a revised version published on the SCR Combined Authority website.
- iii) Members note intentions to make some procedural information more evident on the SCR Combined Authority website.

12 GROWTH DEAL SUMMARY

Members were advised that the Sheffield City Region has received a very positive outcome in respect of its Growth Deal ask.

It was noted that the £324m award is the fifth most substantial Growth Deal that any City Region has made with Government. The funding will go towards supporting the SCRIF programme and enable the creation of a £130m Skills Bank.

Members recognised officers' hard work in respect of developing the Growth Deal and securing the award.

It was noted that an announcement is still awaited on Doncaster's bid to host the High Speed Rail Academy.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the information provided at the meeting be noted.

13 WEBCASTING

A report was presented seeking the Combined Authority Members consideration of the continuation of webcasting of meetings of the Transport Committee for the remainder of the financial year.

It was noted that the cost of webcasting is shared by the other webcasting Partners (the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority)

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Members of the Combined Authority agree to the webcasting of meetings of the Transport Committee.
- ii) That the Authority approves expenditure of £4,120 towards the shared cost of webcasting from 29 June 2014 until 27 June 2015.

14 LONG TERM RAIL STRATEGY

A report was presented requesting Members' approval of the final Long Term Rail Strategy and Consultation Report.

It was confirmed that these 2 documents were considered by the Transport Committee on 30 June 2014 and the Committee support was resolved with a recommendation that this be reported to the Combined Authority.

RESOLVED, that Members:

- i) Approve the Long Term Rail Strategy and Consultation Report
- ii) Note that final Rail North approval to the Strategy will be sought from a Leaders Committee meeting later in 2014.

15 RAIL NORTH (PRESENTATION)

Members were provided with a presentation on Rail North, this covered the initiative's vision, long term strategy, proposed governance arrangements and franchise objectives. It was noted that these issues will come back to the CA for decision over the coming months.

Members noted disappointment that the Government's original plans for devolution have become plans for 'partnerships' with less ambitious targets and objectives.

It was noted that contact has been received from the RMT union requesting meetings to discuss their concerns with the new proposals.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the contents of the presentation be noted.

16 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30TH JUNE 2014

RESOLVED, that:

- i) The draft minutes of the Transport Committee held on 30th June are noted.

SHEFFIELD CITY REGION INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BODY (SCRIIB)

17 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING - 2 JUNE 2014

RESOLVED:

- i) That the minutes of the SCRIB meeting held on 02 June are agreed to be an accurate record.

18 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SCRIF INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY BOARD ON SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Members were presented with a paper setting out the request made by South Yorkshire partners to consider the use of SCRIF to provide the local contribution for the Superfast Broadband project.

It was noted that the LEP has recognised the importance businesses place on broadband connectivity and has committed to securing investment in broadband within Sheffield City Region in its Strategic Economic Plan. Matt Gladstone (Executive Director of Corporate Services, BMBC) is leading on behalf of the Chief Executives', to secure participation in the existing broadband programme being run by Broadband UK (BDUK), on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). This programme enables local and central Government and a private sector partner, to jointly fund superfast broadband rollout to areas that are otherwise unlikely to prove attractive to commercial broadband operators in the short to medium term. It was confirmed that this increase in 'attractiveness' to potential investors is a significant factor in determining the scheme's high GVA rating.

The results of FLUTE testing for the Superfast Broadband scheme were noted.

It was noted that if approved, the SCR Executive will review the affordability of the programme against the profiles and bring a paper back to the Infrastructure Investment Body setting out the cost implications of including the scheme. This will be done in coordination with the SCR Directors of Finance and set out options for balancing the affordability and deliver of the programme. The scheme promoters will also be required to undertake the next stages of the business case process.

RESOLVED:

- i) Note the results of the FLUTE test for the Superfast Broadband scheme.
- ii) Agree with the recommendation of the Infrastructure Advisory Board which is for the inclusion of the Broadband scheme in the current SCRIF programme.

19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further matters of business were requested.

20 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Authority is scheduled for 26th August, at Rotherham Town Hall and will commence at 4.00pm.

CHAIR