

SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

THE AMP TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, BRUNEL WAY, ROTHERHAM, S60 5WG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2014

PRESENT:

Councillor Jahangir Akhtar, Rotherham MBC
Councillor Graham Baxter MBE, North East Derbyshire DC
Councillor John Burrows, Chesterfield BC
Councillor Julie Dore, Sheffield CC
Councillor Tony Favell, Peak District NPA
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Barnsley MBC
Mayor Ros Jones, Doncaster MBC
Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, Derbyshire Dales DC
Councillor Geoff Stevens MBE, Derbyshire Dales District Council
Councillor Eion Watts, Bolsover DC
Councillor Anne Western, Derbyshire CC

Karl Battersby, Rotherham MBC
Huw Bowen, Chesterfield BC
Peter Dale, Doncaster MBC
David Hewitt, SCR Exec Team
Andrew Frosdick, Barnsley MBC / SCR
Wes Lumley, Bolsover DC / NE Derbyshire DC
James Newman, SCR Local Enterprise Partnership
Ben Still, SCR Exec Team
Diana Terris, Barnsley MBC / SCR
Craig Tyler, SYJS / SCR
Eugene Walker, Sheffield CC / SCR

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Greaves, A Rhodes and R Stone

1 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

The meeting was opened by Diana Terris who welcomed the Members, officers and the members of the public present to the inaugural meeting of the SCR Combined Authority.

1.1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair were invited.

Cllr Dore nominated Cllr Houghton for the Chair of the Combined Authority. This nomination was seconded by Mayor Jones and agreed by the Members present.

Cllr Burrows nominated Cllr Watts for the Vice Chair of the Combined Authority. This nomination was seconded by Cllr Baxter and agreed by the members present.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cllr Sir Steve Houghton CBE is appointed Chair of the SCR Combined Authority for the next year (2014/15).
2. That Cllr Eion Watts is appointed Vice Chair of the SCR Combined Authority for the next year (2014/15).

At this point, Cllr Houghton assumed the Chair of the meeting.

1.2. Appointment of Second Rotational Members for 2014/15 and the Subsequent Order of Rotation

A Frosdick provided Members with an explanation of why the appointment of rotational Members is required. Such appointments ensure the Authority has a majority of constituent Members.

It was noted that the principle of appointing rotational Members will be adhered to until there is any amendment to the obligating primary legislation.

It was confirmed that there is no requirement for rotational Members to attend Authority meetings unless required.

Rotational Members nominations from the constituent districts were confirmed as:

- Cllr Alan Gardiner (Barnsley MBC)
- Cllr Bill Mordue (Doncaster MBC)
- Cllr Paul Lakin (Rotherham MBC)
- Cllr Leigh Bramall (Sheffield CC)

It was suggested that with the Combined Authority Chair being provided by Barnsley MBC, an alphabetic system of rotational Member appointments should be assumed, commencing with Doncaster MBC and Rotherham MBC.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cllrs Gardiner, Mordue, Lakin and Bramall be appointed as the Combined Authority's rotational Members
2. That Doncaster MBC and Rotherham MBC provide the rotational Members for 2014/15 (to be followed by Sheffield CC and Barnsley MBC).

1.3. Appointment of Clerk to the Combined Authority

RESOLVED:

1. That Diana Terris be appointed Clerk to the SCR Combined Authority.

1.4. Apologies

Apologies were recorded as above.

1.5. Announcements

No announcements noted.

1.6. Urgent Items

No items received.

1.7. Items to be Considered in the Absence of the Public and Press

No items received.

1.8. Voting Rights for Non-Constituent Members

A Frosdick provided Members with an explanation of how the voting rights for non-constituent Members will operate.

It was noted that whilst non-constituent Members do not have automatic voting rights such rights may be conferred on an item by item basis. The starting point and default position being that all matter will be decided on a SCR (i.e. 9 local authority) basis unless there is a very good reason why this should not be the case.

1.9. Declarations of Interest by Individual Members in Relation to Any Item of Business on the Agenda

No declarations noted.

1.10. Reports from and Questions by Members

No items received

1.11. Receipt of Petitions

The Authority was presented with a petition from Sheffield for Democracy calling for a number of amendments to be made to the constitution.

In receiving the petition, the Chair noted that the constitution may still be considered 'draft' and subject to further revisions. The Chair therefore instructed officers to engage with Sheffield for Democracy to discuss their proposed amendments and consider how they may inform any future revisions.

It was agreed that a formal letter of response would be sent to Sheffield for Democracy once the matter had been given due consideration.

RESOLVED:

1. That officers working on behalf of the SCR Combined Authority engage directly with Sheffield for Democracy members.
2. That a formal letter of response be provided once the matter has been duly considered.

2 ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1. Combined Authority - Constitution and Financial Regulations

A report was received summarising the key constitutional and administrative documents prepared for the Combined Authority and inviting the appointment of a number of key posts and roles.

It was noted that the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority is a statutory body akin, in many ways, to a local authority. Accordingly, the Combined Authority must have in place a Constitution, Financial Regulations and various other legal and procedural documents.

It was noted that the documents have been drafted in line with the wishes of Sheffield City Region Leaders, who have given a steer on various matters since the Scheme and Governance Review documents were submitted to Government in April 2013.

It was noted that the Constitution will remain subject to review and that recommended amendments will be reported to the Authority for ratification.

It was requested that appropriate reference to maximising 'social value' in respect of contract evaluation be added to the Constitution and that opportunities to enter into contracts with the Combined Authority be widened to cover the entire city region.

Members were asked to note the Members nominated to sit on the Transport Committee. It was noted that an appointment for Bassetlaw DC is awaited. It was agreed that the Chair of the Transport Committee should be Cllr Bill Mordue (Doncaster MBC) and the Vice Chair Cllr Leigh Bramall (Sheffield CC).

The Membership of the Transport Committee for 2014/15 was confirmed as:

- Barnsley MBC Cllr David Leech
 Cllr Roy Miller
- Bassetlaw DC TBC
- Bolsover DC Cllr Eoin Watts

- Chesterfield BC Cllr John Burrows
- Derbys Dales DC Cllr Lewis Rose OBE
- Doncaster MBC Cllr Bill Mordue
Cllr Mick Jameson
Cllr Richard Alan Jones
- NE Derbys DC Cllr Graham Baxter MBE
- Rotherham MBC Cllr Richard Russell
Cllr Gerald Smith
- Sheffield CC Cllr Leigh Bramall
Cllr Bob Johnson
Cllr Bryan Lodge
Cllr Tim Rippon
Cllr Ian Auckland

It was noted that the Transport Committee will consider its delegated responsibilities (as reported to previous SCR Leaders' Group meetings) at its first meeting and report any issues by exception.

Members and officers requested that their thanks to Andrew Bullock (Sheffield CC) and the officers of the districts and SCR Executive Team for their assistance with devising the draft constitution be placed on record.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Constitution, as presented, is approved.
2. That the Common Seal is adopted and will be affixed to the minutes of the first meeting of the Combined Authority.
3. That Ben Still is appointed as Interim Head of Paid of Service / Chief Officer of the Combined Authority.
4. That Eugene Walker is appointed as Section 151 Officer and Director of Finance to the Combined Authority.
5. That Andrew Frosdick is appointed Monitoring Officer to the Combined Authority.
6. That the Members of the Transport Committee be appointed as noted.
7. That the Chair and Vice Chair of the Transport Committee be appointed as above.
8. That the Transport Committee will give further consideration to its delegated responsibilities at its first meeting and report any issues by exception to the next meeting of the Combined Authority.

2.2. Scrutiny Arrangements

A report was presented requesting the Authority's consideration of the approach to arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny in response to recent informal guidance issued on behalf of the Secretary of State.

In discussion, it was agreed that the scrutiny function should be of political balance, and the overseeing group should be chaired by a Member of the majority party (Labour) from a non-constituent district.

RESOLVED, that:

1. The principles contained in section 5 of the report be approved.

2.3. Integrated Infrastructure Investment Plan

A report was presented requesting Members support in principle for the development of a city region wide Integrated Infrastructure Investment Plan (SCRIP) and requesting support for the SCR Executive Team leading a process to define the potential scope of the plan.

Members were reminded of activity being undertaken locally in respect of the Government's Single Local Growth Fund for 2015/16 which includes previously announced allocations through DfT devolved majors and then further funds as yet unallocated

It was noted that the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) process has highlighted the need and opportunity for a city-regional level Integrated Infrastructure Investment Plan; and that this plan would be the basis of agreed strategic priorities and future investment decisions.

It was noted that the core ask in the SEP is for accelerated funding to enable the existing SCRIF programme to be delivered faster which will then free up future years devolved funding for additional projects coming out of the proposed infrastructure plan and that the proposal is for the Infrastructure Plan to highlight further infrastructure to support the delivery of key investment priorities. This process would be underpinned by a spatial and economic evidence base, using partners existing plans as the basis in the first instance.

It was agreed that the views of the LEP Board members should also be sought.

RESOLVED, That the Combined Authority Members:

1. Support the principle to develop a proposal for a city region scale Integrated Infrastructure Investment Plan (SCRIP) and underpinning economic and spatial evidence.
2. Support that SCR Executive Team leading a process to define the potential scope of the plan. With a future LEP Board paper to option, the principles, governance, resourcing and delivery for SCRIP.

3 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

3.1. Combined Authority - Continuity Report

A report was presented to provide a brief overview of the Combined Authority's revenue budget and capital programme. The report also outlined the treasury management strategy agreed for the Combined Authority by the Integrated Transport Authority, and the work underway to develop formal processes for distributing growth from Enterprise Zones.

J Newman commented on the funding being received via the LEP and the requirement to manage this separately.

The Chair noted that Authority's expectation that full and comprehensive finance reports will be regularly presented for consideration.

B Still informed Members that further information detailing grant funding post 2014/15 has now been received.

RESOLVED, That the Combined Authority Members:

1. Note the updates provided with regards to the revenue budget and the capital programme.
2. Note the short term breach of parameters on investments, and actions take to address the position.
3. Note the work being undertaken to develop and formalise the distribution of growth from Enterprise Zones.

3.2. Rail North

A report was received to provide an update on the progress of the partnership approach to procurement and management of the Northern and Transpennine Express Franchises due to commence in February 2016.

It was noted that the devolution of rail franchises is a key 'ask' of the Sheffield City Region Deal and the other first tranche city deals in the North. The Government has since said it is not able to support full devolution at this stage and as a result a partnership is being developed for procurement and management of the Northern and Transpennine Express rail franchises with the Department for Transport.

Members were reminded that the principles of a partnership approach were agreed between Rail North Leaders and the Secretary of State for Transport in January 2014 and supporting structures to support this are now being established. The political governance arrangements to support Rail North are now being developed.

It was noted that the partnership approach offers opportunities to better integrate rail and local economic planning in the Sheffield City Region, particularly through alignment with the Strategic Economic Plan.

It was noted that further updates will be presented as the initiative develops.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Authority Members note progress on developing a partnership approach to the procurement and management of the Northern and Transpennine Express franchises with the Department for Transport

3.3. Minutes of the ITA Meeting held on 6 March 2014

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the ITA meeting held on 6 March 2014 be noted.

4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1. Location of Future Meetings

Members considered suitable locations for future Combined Authority meetings, agreeing to observe principles of accessibility and cost efficiency, i.e. using buildings in Local Authority ownership.

Dates of future meetings were noted.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Combined Authority meetings for 2014/15 will be held at Rotherham Town Hall.

4.2. Registered Address of the Combined Authority

Consideration was given to where may provide an appropriate registered address for the Combined Authority. 18 Regent Street, Barnsley was proposed given that this location hosts the Authority's governance staff.

RESOLVED:

1. That 18 Regent Street, Barnsley, S70 2HG be the registered address of the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority.

4.3. South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Pension Fund Committee (Pension Fund Committee)

Members were acquainted with the responsibilities held by the Pensions Fund Committee and informed that under the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) arrangements; ITA Members constituted the Pensions Fund Committee's membership. Following the Combined Authority's assumption of the ITA's statutory and legal responsibilities there is therefore a requirement to agree whether Combined Authority Members should now constitute the Pensions Fund Committee's membership or whether this may be delegated to the members of the Transport Committee.

Prior to a decision being made on the Pension Fund Committees' membership, Members requested a more detailed report to be presented to the next Combined Authority meeting to help explain the scale of the Committee's responsibilities.

RESOLVED:

1. That a report detailing the responsibilities of the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Pension Fund Committee be presented to the next meeting of the Combined Authority.

CHAIR