

SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

**AMRC KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER CENTRE - ADVANCED MANUFACTURING PARK,
WAVERLEY, ROTHERHAM, S60 5WG**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 MARCH 2019

PRESENT:

Mayor Dan Jarvis MBE, Sheffield City Region (Chair)
Councillor Chris Read, Rotherham MBC (Vice Chair)

Councillor Jim Andrews BEM, Barnsley MBC
Councillor Graham Baxter MBE, North East Derbyshire DC
Councillor Julie Dore, Sheffield CC
Councillor Tricia Gilby, Chesterfield BC
Mayor Ros Jones CBE, Doncaster MBC
Councillor Ann Syrett, Bolsover DC
James Muir, SCR LEP

Councillor Chris Furness, Peak Park NPA (Observer)

Ruth Adams, SCR Exec Team
Steve Davenport, SYPTE
Fiona Boden, SCR Exec Team
Huw Bowen, Chesterfield BC
Andrew Frosdick, Monitoring Officer
Sharon Kemp, Rotherham MBC
Mark Lynam, SCR Exec Team
John Mothersole, Sheffield CC
Jo Miller, Doncaster MBC
Mel Dei Rossi, SCR Exec Team
Dave Smith, SCR Exec Team
Daniel Swaine, Bolsover DC / NE Derbyshire DC
Mike Thomas, SCC / SCR Exec Team
Diana Terris, Clerk / Barnsley MBC
Craig Tyler, Joint Authorities Governance Unit
Eugene Walker, S.73 Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Greaves, Councillor S Houghton CBE, Councillor L Rose OBE, N Taylor and P Wilson

Chair's Announcements

The Chair provided Members with information regarding matters arising since the previous MCA meeting.

Regarding Devolution, it was reported that after negotiation, the Leaders had agreed the wording for a letter to be sent to the Secretary of State expressing how the SCR wishes to move forward with its proposed Devolution Deal. The Chair expressed his thanks to the Leaders and officers from all districts in helping achieve this position and noted a response from the government would now be expected.

Regarding Brexit, the Chair commented on the current phase of parliamentary impasse and the importance of the SCR being readied to act on whatever solution emerges to take Brexit forward. It was noted these plans are being developed in partnership with all appropriate district partner organisations including the Local Resilience Forums.

It was reported significant progress has been made on a number of transport related matters. Members were reminded the Transport for the North (TfN) board recently agreed its Strategic Transport Plan (STP) and informed a launch event for the Plan was recently held in Sheffield at the inaugural TfN Conference. It was noted the STP is significant as it's a clear plan on what we want to achieve for residents and businesses across the North.

It was reported TfN has also submitted the strategic outline business case for Northern Powerhouse Rail to Government for their consideration which, if adopted, will significantly improve connectivity across the North.

The Chair informed Members he had been leveraging his position as both Mayor and a Member of Parliament to keep pressing the Government on transport – and particularly on regional infrastructure investment, citing meetings with Ministers and government officials to advocate the cause for the North and the SCR.

It was reported the appointment of the SCR's first Active Travel Commissioner is due to be announced next Monday.

It was reported the first meeting of the SCR Youth Combined Authority was held in February and noted this had been a worthwhile undertaking and an important means of giving young people a voice on matters of local democracy.

1 SCRMCA 19/020 APOLOGIES

Members' apologies were noted as above.

2 SCRMCA 19/021 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were reminded of the launch of a major independent review of bus services across the region, to be led by the MP for Sheffield South East Clive Betts. The Chair asserted the importance of this work and the need to understand the reasons for declining passenger numbers and the changing patterns of what people want from bus services.

It was noted the Mayor would be provided with recommendations to identify areas where we can act to make the required improvements to provide sustainable services.

Members were reminded the MCA approved the plans and budgets to reconfigure the ground floor of the Sheffield City Region offices on Broad Street West and informed the newly refurbished ground floor would be opened later this week. It was suggested this is a really positive move because it will improve accessibility and enable webcasting in a location with good transport connections.

3 SCRMCA 19/022 URGENT ITEMS

None.

4 SCRMCA 19/023 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

None.

5 SCRMCA 19/024 VOTING RIGHTS FOR NON-CONSTITUENT MEMBERS

It was agreed there were no agenda items for which the non-Constituent district Members should not have full voting rights.

6 SCRMCA 19/025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Jones, Cllr Dore, Cllr Read and Cllr Andrews recorded declarations in respect of the schemes to be considered at items 13 (LGF Capital Programme) and item 17 (Transforming Cities Fund) by virtue of being the Leaders of the sponsoring authorities for the schemes under consideration.

7 SCRMCA 19/026 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

None.

8 SCRMCA 19/027 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None received.

9 SCRMCA 19/028 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A question was received from Mr Nigel Slack who address the Authority as follows:

“At item 17 on today's agenda is a report on the proposal to accept the Government's offer of a grant of £4.2M from the competition half of the Transforming Cities Fund.

Whilst £4.2M is not to be sniffed at, this is less than half of the amount the SCR bid for and compared to Greater Manchester's £243M is a drop in the ocean.

The reason for this difference in monetary amounts is, in my opinion, down to the intransigence of local Leaders and their choice to penalise their populations for the sake of political hubris.

As we approach the first anniversary of the Mayor's election, is it now time for the Mayor to call a further vote on the SCR deal and to exercise a casting vote to push the deal through and to gain access, for the people of South Yorkshire and beyond to the monies they were promised by these same politicians in 2014 when this whole sorry process began?"

In response the Chair initially addressed the element of the question relating to the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF). It was noted the £4.2 million that SCR has been awarded is for Tranche 1 only and whilst this is half the amount that the SCR bid for officers are currently undertaking the development work on the wider programme. This will result in a further submission to government for Tranche 2 funding. For clarification, Members were advised the government has allocated a total of £2.45 billion to the Transforming Cities Fund - £600 million in Tranche 1 for small and early-delivery schemes and £1.85 billion in Tranche 2 for longer-term programmes.

Regarding the Devolution-related element of the question, the Chair referred Members to the matters raised in his introduction regarding the submission of a letter to the Secretary of State and reiterated that the SCR's Leaders remain committed to the Devolution Deal.

10 SCRMCA 19/029 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2019

At 'Chair's Introduction', it was confirmed the reference to:

"The Chair noted he had also tabled a debate on the future of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and had met with", should be suffixed with "...the Chancellor of the Exchequer".

RESOLVED, that with the above clarification, the minutes of the previous meeting are agreed to be an accurate record.

11 SCRMCA 19/030 MCA LEP REVENUE BUDGET 2019/20

A report was received to set out the indicative proposals for the Sheffield City Region MCA/LEP Revenue Budget for financial year 2019/20.

The Chair issued a commitment to convene Leaders' meetings to further review the 2019/20 budget within the next 4 months, to identify where further savings can be made in-year, and to commence early work on the determination of the 2020/21 budget.

RESOLVED, that the SCR MCA:

1. Approves the proposed MCA/LEP revenue budget and revenue programmes for 2019/20;

2. Approves the proposed MCA Group reserves strategy and associated Section 73 Officer recommendations
3. Approves the proposed business rates rebate policy as set out in Appendix 4 to the report

12 SCRMCA 19/031 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2019/20

A report was received to provide the proposed Annual Treasury Management Strategy for the financial year 2019/20.

It was noted this is a compliance paper which sets out how the Authority's debt and investment portfolio will be managed over the period

The report advised Members that like other public bodies, the Authority adopts an efficient approach to its affairs which seeks to mitigate risk above all else.

RESOLVED, that the SCR MCA:

1. Approves the annual treasury management strategy and associated prudential indicators
2. Approves the annual investment strategy
3. Approves the minimum revenue provision policy
4. Gives delegated authority to the Finance Director to provide a financial guarantee in favour of a wholly owned subsidiary of the MCA, the SCR Financial Interventions Holding Company

13 SCRMCA 19/032 LGF CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20

A report was received requesting the approval of the Local Growth Fund Capital Programme for financial year 2019/20.

Members were informed the indicative 2019/20 LGF Capital Programme includes £34.5m of committed spend against an indicative LGF grant allocation of £29.9m, supplemented by additional resources of £30.6m, totalling £60.5m of available resources.

RESOLVED, that the SCR MCA:

1. Approves the current committed project profiles for next year as set out in the report
2. Approves the approach to continue to appraise projects from the pipeline seeking approval from the long list (but not to overcommit) throughout the year.

14 SCRMCA 19/033 REVISED ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

A report was received to remind Members that each year the SCR (LEP and MCA) is required to update its Assurance Framework to ensure that robust, transparent and effective governance arrangements are in place. It was noted the draft Assurance Framework 2019 has been prepared in response to government guidance.

RESOLVED, that the SCR MCA:

1. Approves the updated Assurance Framework
2. Notes the Annual Assurance Statement from the Section 73 Officer

15 SCRMCA 19/034 ESTATES TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY

A report was received to presents the Draft Estates Transformation Strategy for consideration and endorsement.

RESOLVED, that the SCR MCA endorses the Sheffield City Region Estates Transformation Strategy and Delivery Plan.

16 SCRMCA 19/035 PROVIDER CAPACITY FUND

A report was received to seek approval for delegated authority to the S73 officer to approve applications received under the Provider Capacity Development Fund (which forms part of Skills Bank 2).

RESOLVED, that the board approves delegated authority to the S73 officer to approve applications to the Provider Capacity Development Fund.

17 SCRMCA 19/036 GRANT ACCEPTANCE - TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND

A report was received to seek authorisation to accept a £4.2m grant as a result of three successful bids to the Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 1.

RESOLVED, that the MCA accepts the £4.2m grant from Transforming Cities Fund and delegates authority to the SCR Managing Director to enter into agreements with the relevant local authorities who will be delivering the schemes.

18 SCRMCA 19/037 DELEGATED AUTHORITY REPORT

RESOLVED, that the Authority notes the decisions made under delegation in respect of MCA approved recommendations that have been acted upon in the last period.

19 SCRMCA 19/038 RESOLUTION RECORDS

RESOLVED, that the resolution records of the SCR Housing and Infrastructure Executive Board meeting held on 17th January and the SCR Skills Executive Board meeting held on 21st February are received and the recommendations endorsed.

Chair's Closing Remarks

The Chair noted this would be Diana Terris's last MCA meeting as BMBC Chief Executive and Clerk to the SCR MCA. The Chair led Members and officers in thanking Diana for her service and dedication to the MCA and wished her a long and happy retirement.

CHAIR