

SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

ROTHERHAM TOWN HALL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 AUGUST 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 Lewis Rose OBE, Derbyshire Dales DC
Mayor Ros Jones, Doncaster MBC
Councillor Griff Wynne, Bassetlaw DC

Ellen Cutler, SCR Executive Team
Andrew Frosdick, Barnsley MBC (Monitoring Officer)
Gill Garrety, SYJS
Amy Harhoff, Sheffield City Region Executive Team
David Hewitt, SCR Executive Team
Julie Hurley, SYPTE
Wes Lumley, Bolsover DC / NE Derbyshire DC
Ben Morley, Sheffield CC
James Newman, SCR Local Enterprise Partnership
Neil Taylor, Bassetlaw DC
Diana Terris, Barnsley MBC (Clerk)
Eugene Walker, Sheffield CC (Treasurer)

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

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

3 URGENT ITEMS

None.

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

None.

5 VOTING RIGHTS FOR NON-CONSTITUENT MEMBERS

There was no reason not to confer voting rights for non-constituent members.

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

None.

7 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

None.

8 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

9 SEP PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

A report was received which informed the Authority of the work underway to operationalise the Sheffield City Region's Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), which included its European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) programme.

Members noted that the next ESIF programme would be essential in taking forward a number of key elements of the SEP; this would include the production of an annual Local Implementation Plan and Prospectus by the end of October.

Members were advised that negotiations continued with Government on outstanding 'asks' from the SEP; it was anticipated that the next opportunity to secure additional funding would be the Autumn Statement.

RESOLVED - That Members noted:

- i) The milestones set out to operationalise the SEP, including ESIF.

- ii) The proposed initial timescales for ongoing negotiations with Government to secure additional funding, freedoms and flexibilities.

10 DUTY TO CO-OPERATE

A report was received which outlined a proposal to develop an agreed approach to the Duty Co-operate (DtC) and cross-boundary planning, housing and employment issues at city region level, to be informed and implemented at Local Authority level.

Members were reminded that the Localism Act 2011 set a framework of the responsibilities for Local Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships to work collaboratively to demonstrate that the Duty to Co-operate had been met.

It was noted that the absence of clear guidance on the DtC required a locally adopted process to be developed to enable all future Examinations in Public for Local Plans to consistently and coherently address this issue under scrutiny.

Members stressed the importance of ensuring that there was no duplication across the authorities and that each authority was working from the same database.

RESOLVED - That the Authority agrees:

- i) To commission the additional spatial and economic forecasting required to generate an evidence base for city region level housing and employment numbers.
- ii) To reduce the cost burden for this work by combining this with the requirements of the SCR Integrated Infrastructure Plan.
- iii) To support the use of housing and employment forecasting evidence to develop a more long-term proposal to address the Duty to Co-operate and cross-boundary planning matters at the strategic level.

11 EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUND (ESIF) UPDATE

The Authority considered a report which provided an update in respect of the development of the SCR European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF), the establishment of the SCR ESIF Committee, the Judicial Review and the current position of the Programme.

Members were advised that on 14th August, DCLG had issued further guidance in respect of the 2014-20 ESIF Programme, the key issue being the requirement to develop a Local Implementation Plan (LIP). The LIP would be developed in two stages – Stage 1 by the end of September and a more detailed Stage 2 towards the end of the year. The main issues in respect of the initial LIP were:

- 1) Investment Priorities
- 2) Spend Targets
- 3) Calls

4) ESF Opt-Ins

Members noted that it was unlikely that the Commission would be in a position to approve the English ESIF Programme before the end of 2014; it was therefore unlikely that any projects would be approved and contracted before summer 2015.

It was noted that the Guidance confirmed that 2% of the ERDF and ESF Programme would be available as Technical Assistance to support funding in the LEP areas.

The Authority noted the membership structure of the SCR ESIF Committee and its Terms of Reference. Districts were requested to submit their nominations for Committee Members as soon as possible.

Members were reminded that with regard to the Judicial Review a decision on whether to appeal to the Supreme Court had to be made by Friday 29 August 2014; it was understood that Merseyside did wish to proceed to appeal.

RESOLVED - That the Authority:

- i) Notes the report.
- ii) Endorses the development of an initial Local Implementation Plan by the end of September 2014 and the development of a Technical Assistance Strategy.
- iii) Endorses the reallocation of c£637k, if required, from TO5 (Climate change Adaptation) to TO4 (Low Carbon).
- iv) Endorses the representation of the SCR ESIF Committee and nominates representative from the Combined Authority.
- v) Further discuss and decide whether to the appeal to the Supreme Court by Friday 29 August 2014.

At this point Councillor Sir Steve Houghton and Diana Terris left the meeting; Councillor Eion Watts took the Chair.

12 RURAL ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THE LEADER PROGRAMME

The Authority considered a paper which reported on the current status of the LEADER Programme and the establishment of a SCR Rural Advisory Board.

Members noted that maximising the contribution of the region's rural areas and the market towns that serve them was essential to achieving the SCR's strategic ambitions for economic growth.

Support via the LEADER Programme was one of the key ways of supporting rural economic growth. In order to receive financial support from this source, Local Action Groups need to develop a Local development Strategy which would be

assessed by Government and used as a basis for the allocation of funding via a competitive process; the strategies for the next Programme were currently being finalised for submission to SCT LEP for endorsement on 29 August 2014.

The Authority was informed that the SCR would be establishing a Rural Advisory Board to provide the rural perspective to the work of both the LEP/Combined Authority and SCR ESIF Committee. Its main roles would be to:

- help mainstream rural issues across the SCR LEP six thematic priorities and responsible Thematic Advisory Boards, ensuring delivery reflects rural circumstances;
- shape EAFRD delivery, ensuring tailored activities to stimulate the rural economy complement wider EDRF and ESF spending;
- ensure rural interests were represented throughout policy development and project delivery.

Members considered the Terms of Reference and the proposed membership of the Rural Advisory Board; it was thought to be essential that a member of each Local Action Group should sit on the Committee.

RESOLVED – That the Authority:

- i) Note the report.
- ii) Delegate responsibility to the Chief Executive of the Sheffield City Region in consultation with the Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Chair of Sheffield City Region Combined Authority to authorise a broad letter of support for the respective Local Action Group Local Development Strategies within the Sheffield City Region.
- iii) Agree the Terms of Reference and membership of the Sheffield City Region Rural Advisory Board with the addition of a member of each Local Action Group being represented on the Board.

13 SCR INWARD INVESTMENT UPDATE AND FORWARD PLAN

The Authority considered a report which provided an update on SCR Inward Investment. Members noted:

- Since the creation of the SCR LEP Inward Investment Team an additional 23 investments had been made creating 1264 new jobs.
- Following agreement of the Strategic Economic Plan, a new board would be set up to improve results and provide for stronger governance of inward investment activity.
- The Inward Investment SCR Board would be chaired by a LA Chief Executive, with private sector representation which would lead Action Groups made up of representatives across the region.
- The Board would initially report through the Business Growth Board, but may eventually report directly to the CA/LEPAP.

RESOLVED – That the Authority:

- i) Endorse the establishment of an SCR Inward Investment Board.
- ii) Note the proposed membership, action areas and draft terms of reference of the Inward Investment Board.
- iii) Note the progress of activities to date.
- iv) Endorse forward activities planned until the Inward Investment Board becomes operational.

14 ONE NORTH

A report was submitted that detailed the progress being made on the One North Proposition.

Members noted that a launch event attended by senior Government Ministers, northern political leaders and key private stakeholders had been held in Manchester on 5 August 2014. The aim was to launch the final One North Proposition and demonstrate how the north was working in partnership to resolve barriers that were currently restricting economic growth. It was reported that Phase 2 of the One North work was planned for completion on 31 October 2014; Members agreed that Julie Hurley, the Interim Director of Strategy at SYPTE would continue to be the officer lead for the project.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

15 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH AUGUST

RESOLVED - That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Transport Committee held on 11 August 2014 are noted.

16 COMBINED AUTHORITY TRADING NAME

A report was considered which requested approval to register 'Sheffield City Region Combined Authority' as the trading name of the Combined Authority.

Members noted that the Combined Authority's legal title was the Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority and it was under this name that the Authority was registered for VAT purposes (operating under 'Section 33' status allows the Authority to recover all VAT on its expenditure). However, the Authority was generally operating under its Sheffield City Region Combined Authority designation – a title familiar to officers, member, the general public and crucially suppliers. The Authority was informed that invoices into the Combined Authority containing any other name than that registered with HMRC could lead to VAT recovery problems; it was for this reason that it was proposed to register 'Sheffield City Region Combined Authority' as the Combined Authority's trading name.

RESOLVED – That:

- i) The Authority approves the registration of ‘Sheffield City Region Combined Authority’ as a trading name with HMRC.
- ii) That the Combined Authority officially recognises ‘Sheffield City Region Combined Authority’ as a name by which the Combined Authority can trade and operate.

17 APPROVAL OF THE 2013/14 ITA ACCOUNTS

A report was considered regarding the approval of the 2013/14 ITA accounts.

Members were advised that the statutory order that created the Combined Authority conferred upon it all powers and competencies of the former ITA, including the responsibility for approving the statutory accounts of the ITA for the financial year 2013/14. Going forward, this would be one of the principal functions of the Combined Authority’s Audit Committee.

Local authorities had been asked to nominate members for the Audit Committee, but at the moment membership of the Committee had not been resolved. To ensure the Authority had an appropriate means of approving the accounts the proposal was that the Combined Authority Chair and Vice-Chair be delegated authority to act on behalf of the Authority should the Audit Committee not be in a position to do so.

RESOLVED – That:

- i) After consultation with the Section 151 Officer, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Combined Authority be granted delegated authority to approve the 2013/14 ITA statutory accounts.
- ii) That this authority be exercised only in the eventuality that the Combined Authority Audit Committee is not in a position to approve the accounts themselves.

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Authority is scheduled for 6 October 2014 at Rotherham Town Hall at 4pm.

CHAIR