

SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

ROTHERHAM TOWN HALL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2015

PRESENT:

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

Councillor Graham Baxter MBE, North East Derbyshire DC
Councillor John Burrows, Chesterfield BC
Councillor Julie Dore, Sheffield CC
Councillor Simon Greaves, Bassetlaw DC
Mayor Ros Jones, Doncaster MBC
Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, Derbyshire Dales DC

Ruth Adams, SCR Executive Team
Huw Bowen, Chesterfield BC
Andrew Frosdick, Monitoring Officer
David Hewitt, SCR LEP
Wes Lumley, Bolsover DC / NE Derbyshire DC
Jo Miller, Doncaster MBC
John Mothersole, Sheffield CC
Ben Still, SCR Executive Team
Neil Taylor, Bassetlaw DC
Diana Terris, Clerk / Barnsley MBC
Craig Tyler, SYJS
Eugene Walker, s151 Officer
Paul Woodcock, Rotherham MBC

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Rhodes and A Western and James Newman

1 APOLOGIES

Members' 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

It was confirmed that no agenda 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

None.

7 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

None.

8 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH JANUARY 2015

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Combined Authority held on 5th January 2015 be agreed to be an accurate record.

10 HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE CHALLENGE FUND

Members were advised that the Department for Transport is making available £575m to local authorities via competitive bidding from the Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund.

Doncaster and Rotherham will be submitting bids totalling £18.3m focusing on the A630 and A638 key strategic corridors. The bids must be prioritised and officers recommended Rotherham first, then Doncaster based on the identified need and fit with the bid criteria.

It was noted that the bids had to be submitted to the DfT by 9th February via the Combined Authority and approval was therefore delegated to the Chair of the CA

It was noted that Sheffield do not qualify due to existing highway PFI status and Barnsley have not been able to identify a scheme of sufficient size to meet the bid criteria (minimum £5m bid)

RESOLVED, that:

1. Members note the letter of support submitted by the Chair of the Combined Authority to the DfT for the Highway Maintenance funding bids from Doncaster and Rotherham (submitted by the bid deadline of 9th February).
2. The priority given to the schemes within the letter is:
 1. Rotherham: A630 strategic corridor
 2. Doncaster: A638 strategic corridor

11 PENSIONS BOARD - NEW GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

A paper was presented to inform Members of the work that has taken place since the last report to the Authority on 5 January 2015, in establishing a Pensions Board (in this instance for the Passenger Transport Pension Fund (PTPF) as a requirement under the Public Services Pensions Act 2013 for public sector pension schemes) to establish Pension Boards.

Members were advised that following publication of Regulations in relation to their establishment and subject to approval by the Secretary of State it has been proposed that a proportionate means of discharging this requirement will be to combine the PTPF Pension Board with the LGPS Pension Board.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority members:

1. Note the contents of the Report.
2. Agree the proposal to establish a Joint Pension Board comprising the Combined Authority's Passenger Transport Pension Fund and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), in accordance with the Terms of Reference and Constitution (set out at Appendix A of the accompanying report), subject to Secretary of State approval.

12 SCR BUSINESS GROWTH HUB

Members were presented with a paper seeking formal approval for (a) a 2015/16 Growth Hub 'pilot' team (b) a longer-term commitment to support the Growth Hub team through the funding secured (for that purpose) as part of the Devolution Deal.

Cllr Rose offered a cautious welcome to the proposals, noting that these new posts will have to work closely with existing services for business provisions.

Cllr Burrows said the team would need to work closely with D2N2 (Derbyshire / Nottinghamshire LEP) to ensure consistent services are provided.

Mayor Jones agreed that the Growth Hub needs to be complementary to what's services are already in place to ensure 'added value' is generated.

J Dore asked how the success of the Growth Hub would be evaluated and how it will be compared with what might have been delivered without it.

B Still confirmed that all necessary alignments are being made with D2N2 to present a seamless level of support to businesses and that evaluation would be important to demonstrating the success of the proposed approach.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority Members:

1. Endorse the short-term (2015/16 pilot), medium-term and long-term vision (full devolution from 2017/18) of the SCR Growth Hub.
2. Note the rationale for doing so set out in the Strategic Economic Plan to put in place a 'world class' provision of business support.
3. Approve the use of £500,000 funding (secured in through Growth Deal) in order to deliver the Growth Hub pilot in 2015/16 (in the manner specified at Section 5 of the accompanying report).
4. Approve the use of £500,000 p.a. of capital/revenue funding secured through Growth Deal 2 and the Devolution Deal to fund the small 'core' of the Growth Hub for the period 2016/17 to 2020/21 (i.e. £2m in total), subject to the resolution of any technical issues.
5. Approve that the balance of the capital/revenue funding secured through the Growth Deal 2 and Devolution Deal should be made available to the spokes of the Growth Hub to 'pump-prime' activity i.e. access to finance, export, innovation and start-up.
6. Agree to delegate operational decision making with regard to the above funds to the Head of Paid Service of the CA, in consultation with the Chair of the Business Growth Board and with oversight of the CA's s.151 and monitoring officer (as is their statutory responsibility).

13 SCR GROWTH HUB ACCESS TO FINANCE CENTRE OF EXPERTISE

A paper was received presenting the case for an Access to Finance Centre of Expertise (AFCOE) as a critical early 'spoke' of the Growth Hub (following on from the previous agenda item). It was noted that AFCOE was a priority set out in the SEP and ESIF strategy which, as a result of five months' work – has been developed into a substantive proposal.

Cllr Rose noted the need for businesses to receive a smooth service and not be presented with a confusing process.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority Members:

1. Approve the use of £1,087,425 of capital/revenue funding secured through Growth Deal 2 and the Devolution Deal to fund A2FCOE (2015/16 to 2017/18), subject to the resolution of any technical issues.
2. Agree to delegate operational decision making with regard to these funds to the Head of Paid Service of the CA, in consultation with the Chair of the A2F Advisory Board and with oversight of the CA's s.151 and monitoring officer (as is their statutory responsibility).
3. Agree to support the development of a detailed delivery plan for the A2FCOE (overseen by the Access to Finance Advisory Board and a 'practitioners group' drawn from this board and wider partners).

14 SCR SEP - BETTER SKILLS PROGRAMME

A paper was presented seeking the Authority's formal endorsement of the development of the 'Better Skills' programme to date (Learn to Work, Progress to Work, Skills Capital and Skills Bank) and requesting the approval of a number of decisions to enable the SCR Executive Team to progress activity.

Members were advised that the programme is being developed working closely with officials in Cabinet Office, BIS and the SFA and advised that whilst the formal joint venture arrangements, outlined in the devolution deal, are not yet in place the current working arrangements are supporting the principles of collaboration outlined.

Regarding the Skills Bank Operator, it was confirmed that the working group convened to design the process has now been disbanded to enable all parties engaged with the initial process to bid for this work. It has been agreed that the Skills Bank Operator can not undertake more than 5% of the work.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority Members:

1. Endorse the acceptance of the grant offer for £100k from BIS to deliver an early adopter pilot for Enterprise Advisor activity, and approve the subcontracting of activity to Local Authority partners to deliver this activity.
2. Endorse the content of the SCR Disadvantaged Learner Pilot with a focus on care leavers (aged over 19) and approve the submission of an outline business plan to BIS by 19th February.
3. Approve the SFA skills capital MOU, enabling the SFA to formally work with us on the assurance of the skills capital submissions.
4. Approve the outline programme for the Skills Bank, enabling it to progress the procurement of the Skills Bank Operator, delegating interim sign off to the CA Head of Paid Service.

15 SEP ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK UPDATE

A paper was received informing Members that the SCR must update its existing Assurance Framework by April 2015.

It was noted that this will need to include, as a minimum, evidence of the mechanisms by which decisions are made, how prioritisation is completed and how value for money is assured for all Local Growth Funding.

Members were informed that to meet this requirement, a programmatic two stage approach is recommended. This would comprise 1) an initial update on an interim basis and 2) the completion of a larger piece of work to produce a more integrated and holistic document and approach.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority Members:

1. Agree that the Assurance Framework produced for April will be an interim document applicable to the SCR's LGF allocation for 2015/16.
2. Note that this document will be developed throughout 2015 to provide a more integrated and holistic approach applicable across the different thematic areas of the SEP.

16 TRAM-TRAIN PROJECT-PROMOTION OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992 ORDER

A report was received requesting the approval of the promotion by the Passenger Transport Executive of a Transport and Works Act 1992 Order to allow the construction of a length of railway/tramway as part of the Tram-Train Project.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority Members:

1. Approve the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive promoting a Transport and Works Act 1992 Order to allow the construction of a length of railway/tramway at Meadowhall/Tinsley as part of the Tram-Train Project.

17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD ON 2ND FEBRUARY 2015

RESOLVED, that:

1. The minutes of the Transport Committee meeting held on 2nd February be noted.

18 IAB RECOMMENDATIONS ON SCRIF BUSINESS CASES

Members were presented with a paper detailing recommendations for Chesterfield Northern Gateway Stage 1A, Superfast Broadband Stage 1A, Sheffield City Centre - University of Sheffield Campus Phase 1 Stage 1B and Sheffield City Centre – Grey to Green Phase 1 business cases.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority Members:

1. Agree the recommendation on the Chesterfield Northern Gateway Stage 1A business case.
2. Agree the recommendation on the Superfast Broadband Stage 1A business case.
3. Agree the recommendation on the Sheffield City Centre - University of Sheffield Campus Phase 1 Stage 1B business case.
4. Agree the recommendation on the Sheffield City Centre – Grey to Green Phase 1 Stages 2&3.

CHAIR