

SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

THE AMP TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, WAVERLEY, ROTHERHAM, S60 5WG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2015

PRESENT:

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Barnsley MBC (Chair)
Councillor John Burrows, Chesterfield BC (Vice Chair)

Councillor Graham Baxter MBE, North East Derbyshire DC
Councillor Chris Read, Rotherham MBC
Councillor Julie Dore, Sheffield CC
Mayor Ros Jones, Doncaster MBC

Ruth Adams, SCR Executive Team
Fiona Boden, SCR Executive Team
James Newman, SCR Local Enterprise Partnership
Huw Bowen, Chesterfield BC
Andrew Frosdick, Monitoring Officer
Stella Manzie CBE, Rotherham MBC
Julie Kenny CBE, Rotherham MBC
John Mothersole, Sheffield CC
Scott Cardwell, Doncaster MBC
Andrew Shirt, Joint Authorities Governance Unit
Andrew Gates, SCR Executive Team
Daniel Swaine, Bolsover DC / NE Derbyshire DC
Neil Taylor, Bassetlaw DC
Martin McCarthy, Deputy Monitoring Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Syrett, Councillor S Greaves,
Councillor L Rose, B Still, C Tyler and E Walker

1 APOLOGIES

Members' apologies were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were noted.

3 URGENT ITEMS

The Chair explained that he had agreed to accept one urgent item, namely a paper entitled 'Interim Director General – SYPTE: Employment Situation'. The special circumstances being to allow consideration of the Authority at the earliest opportunity, due to it relating to a staffing situation; noting that it would be unreasonable to delay a decision until the next meeting.

It was agreed that the paper would be taken at item 18 on the agenda and considered in the absence of the public and press.

The Chair also agreed to consider agenda item 11 'Appointment of Executive Director – SYPTE' in the absence of the public and press, due to this report being connected with the urgent item. This report would now be taken at item 19 on today's agenda.

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

RESOLVED – That the following items of business be considered in the absence of the public and press:

Item 18 – Interim Director General – SYPTE: Employment Situation; and
Item 19 - Appointment of Executive Director – SYPTE.

5 VOTING RIGHTS FOR NON-CONSTITUENT MEMBERS

It was agreed that no agenda items required voting rights to be confirmed by non-constituent Members.

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

Councillor Read declared an interest at agenda item 14 'Skill, Employment and Education Board Update' in relation to a decision of the Board to approve the Skills Capital mandate for RCAT Higher Skills Centre to progress to the outline business case. In the absence of the Leader, this decision would need ratifying by the Combined Authority.

7 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

None received.

8 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No petitions were received.

The Chair informed Members that three questions had been received from Mr Nigel Slack, Sheffield for Democracy.

Mr Slack asked the Combined Authority:

1. At item 10 on the agenda, the background report suggests that all nine Councils in the City Region will be required to endorse this proposed agreement.

Reading the deal itself would suggest that only the Metro Councils, as Constituent Members, are required to agree the deal, particularly that part of the deal concerning the 'Elected Mayor'.

Will the Combined Authority clarify the exact voting requirements for each Council, constituent and non-constituent?

I understand from one of the Senior Civil Servants involved that the 'Cities' Bill which will enable this deal allows that, if one Council opposes this deal, they can be forced to accept the majority decision, but that if two Councils oppose it, the deal fails.

Can the Combined Authority clarify whether this is the case for all nine Councils or just the four Metros?

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE replied:

Under the Bill as drafted, it is the constituent Councils and the Combined Authority who must make a proposal for a Mayoral Order or consent to an Order if made proactively by the Secretary of State. Therefore, the Combined Authority will need to vote on the matter as well as the four South Yorkshire Districts and that means that the issue would arise whether or not the constituent members would want to give voting rights to the non-constituent members. It was explained that this was a matter of discretion, and at this stage, the support of the non-constituent authorities within the Combined Authority when the issue is voted upon would not be required. However, given that the deal is a City Region level deal, the Combined Authority would seek endorsement from all nine members of the Combined Authority.

It was highlighted that the Deal was subject to consultation.

2. Item 10's report also comments on 'consultation'. In Sheffield we have been assured that this will be extensive and detailed, but is unlikely to start before the Autumn Statement/Spending Review.

Can the Combined Authority comment on the detail of the timescale from this point onwards, including length of the consultation period, length of further negotiations and any proposed decision date for individual Councils, and

whether their deliberations will be considered by the Combined Authority before a final decision is arrived at?

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE replied:

The Combined Authority would be endorsing the 'heads of terms' document at today's meeting which set out the terms of a proposed agreement between Government and the Leaders of the Sheffield City Region to devolve a range of powers and responsibilities to the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority and a new directly elected mayor, subject to consultation.

It had been agreed that a programme of consultation and engagement within the City Region with local businesses and residents would commence on 16 November for a period of 5 weeks. Throughout January to March 2016, local authorities in the City Region would be formally ratifying the Deal at their Full Council meetings. Formal Combined Authority endorsement would take place during March 2016, with the implementation of the Deal from 1st April 2016.

3. Can the Combined Authority assure the public that the next draft of the 'deal' will be written with less openness to interpretation? Thinking particularly of Paragraph 4* which, as currently drafted suggests a Mayoral veto on Combined Authority voting.

**Paragraph 4 - Proposals for decision by the Combined Authority may be put forward by the Mayor or any Cabinet Member. The Mayor will have one vote as will other voting members. Any questions that are to be decided by the Combined Authority are to be decided by a majority of the members present and voting, subject to that majority including the vote of the Mayor, unless otherwise set out in legislation, or specifically delegated through the Authority's Constitution.*

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE replied:

Yes, I can confirm that the proposed deal document is written in non-technical language and is effectively a 'heads of terms' document, reflecting where we currently are at this point in the process. However, subject to the consultation process any future order would be very precise and would be underpinned by a refreshed constitution.

In relation to paragraph 4, it was confirmed that all the dynamics between the Mayor and the Combined Authority would be subject to further debate and discussion over the forthcoming months. There was certainly no intention to give the Mayor a kind of veto over the Combined Authority's decision making.

9 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH SEPTEMBER 2015

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Combined Authority held on 14 September 2015 be agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

10 DEVOLUTION - ENDORSEMENT OF PROPOSED DEAL DOCUMENT AND NEXT STEPS

A report was presented informing Members that on the 4th September, the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority and Local Enterprise Partnership submitted to Government proposals for an economic Devolution Deal, in line with the deadline for such proposals set by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Summer Budget announcements in July 2015.

On 2 October the SCR agreed a proposed Deal for the devolution of powers from Government to the City Region. This represented the next steps forward for the City Region in securing additional devolved powers, freedoms, flexibilities and funding from Government.

Agreement of the proposed Deal was subject to a number of issues, including undertaking public consultation and local authorities ratifying this Agreement.

Members were informed that the next step in progressing the Deal would involve joint working and activity from both the Sheffield City Region and Government. A detailed paper on the implementation would be brought to a future meeting.

RESOLVED - That the Combined Authority endorse the proposed SCR Devolution Deal between the City Region and Government.

11 APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - SYPTE

RESOLVED – That Combined Authority Members agreed to consider the Appointment of Executive Director – SYPTE report in the absence of the public and press. Please refer to minute 19.

12 BUSINESS GROWTH EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATE

A paper was submitted providing Members with a summary of progress and decisions made by the Business Growth Executive Board at their meeting held on 6 October 2015.

Members noted that the Board had focussed its attention on the Growth Hub implementation with a detailed paper being presented by the new Head of Growth Hub setting out key work streams in place and progress on full implementation.

The Board also considered and approved, subject to some recommended changes, the Business Growth section of the Combined Authority's Business Plan for 2015/16.

In addition to the implementation of the Growth Hub, the Board would now consider a wider range of business growth themed activity not currently included within the delivery plan for the Growth Hub.

RESOLVED – That Combined Authority Members noted the update and endorsed the decisions made by the Board.

13 INFRASTRUCTURE EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATE

A paper was submitted providing Members with a summary of progress made by the Infrastructure Executive Board at their meeting held on 9 October 2015.

Members noted that the final drafting of the SCR Integrated Infrastructure Plan would take place over the next 4 weeks with a view to a designed version being available at the next Combined Authority.

RESOLVED – That Combined Authority Members noted the update.

14 SKILLS, EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION BOARD UPDATE

A paper was presented setting out the decisions taken by the Skills, Employment and Education Board held on 10 October 2015.

Members noted the following decisions taken by the Board:

1. Endorsed the latest version of the 2015/16 business plan for Skills Employment and Education.
2. Declined the Vulcan Aviation scheme (VAA) Skills Capital mandate and subject to SCR forward commissioning approach to offer the option to resubmit pending undertaking further work on the bid.
3. Agreed that whilst the ABR process is ongoing, there will be no proactive invitations issued for further Skills Capital bids. However, any bids received as a consequence of earlier invites will be considered in line with the SCR forward commissioning approach.
4. Approved the Enterprise Adviser Pilot outline business case and agree to recommend acceptance of a grant offer letter from the Careers and Enterprise Company for £150,000, subject to the final approval of the SCR CA s151 officer.
5. Approved the decision to approve the Enterprise Adviser Pilot full business case by written procedures.
6. Approved the Skills Bank Pilot / Programme Management outline business case and agree to recommend acceptance of a grant offer letter from the SFA for £2.7m, subject to final approval of the SCR CA s151 officer.
7. Approved the decision to approve the Skills Bank Pilot / Programme Management full business case by written procedures.

The Combined Authority ratified the following decision of the Board, due to Councillor Chris Read declaring an interest:

Approval of the Skills Capital mandate for the Rotherham College of Arts and Technology (RCAT) Higher Skills Centre to progress to the outline business case.

Proposed LGF requested £4m (40% of total scheme cost: total LGF available to skills capital from GD1 £18m).

RESOLVED – That the Combined Authority Members noted the update and endorsed the decisions taken by the Board.

15 TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATE

A paper was submitted providing Members with a summary of progress and decisions made by the Transport Executive Board (TEB) at their meeting held on 12 October 2015.

Members noted that in relation to governance, the SCR Director of Transport would engage with the LEP Chair to determine a nominee for the vacant LEP seat on the Board.

The Chair of the Transport Committee would be asked to develop options for the structure of the Transport Committee membership and present recommendations to the TEB.

The Board had approved the principle of submitting a low emissions bus bid for vehicles in Sheffield.

Mayor Jones asked if the bid could be widened to encompass the whole of the City Region. It was agreed that the SCR Director of Transport would be tasked to answer this question.

RESOLVED – That Combined Authority Members noted the update and endorsed the decisions taken by the Board.

16 HOUSING EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATE

Members received a verbal update regarding the progress made and decisions taken by the Housing Executive Board at their meeting held on 7 October 2015.

It was noted that the Board had discussed the draft provisions within the Devolution Deal and the areas that would be of interest to the Board, including potential new borrowing powers for the SCR for non-transport as referenced in the Devolution Agreement and the specific commitment to explore a Housing Investment Fund.

The Board had received a presentation covering housing sites which were ready for development along with an update on the categorisation of priority sites.

The Board had noted the HCA's Quarter 2 performance report, and had provided comments on the draft Integrated Infrastructure Plan.

Furthermore, the Board had agreed to support the submission of a bid to the LGA for acceptance on the One Public Estate Bid Phase 3 programme.

RESOLVED – That the Combined Authority Members noted the update and endorsed the decisions taken by the Board.

17 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That, under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest not to disclose information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

18 URGENT ITEM - INTERIM DIRECTOR GENERAL - SYPTE: EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

A paper was presented to address an employment situation of the current Interim Director General of the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive.

RESOLVED – That Combined Authority Members approved the recommendations set out within the report.

19 APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - SYPTE

A paper was presented to provide Members with a summary of the recruitment process undertaken, and the proposed appointment of an Executive Director for South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTE).

RESOLVED – That Combined Authority Members:-

- i) Recommend and endorsed the appointment of Stephen Edwards as the new Executive Director – SYPTE; and
- ii) Acknowledged that a fair and equitable appointment process had been undertaken.

CHAIR