



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2017 AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS**

Present:	Cllr Peter Box (Chair)	-	Wakefield MDC
	Cllr Tim Swift (Vice Chair)	-	Calderdale MBC
	Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	-	City of Bradford MDC
	Cllr David Sheard	-	Kirklees Council
	Cllr Judith Blake	-	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Keith Aspden	-	City of York Council
	Cllr Simon Cooke	-	Conservative Representative (City of Bradford MDC)
	Cllr Jeanette Sunderland	-	Liberal Democrat Representative (City of Bradford MDC)
	Roger Marsh	-	Leeds City Region LEP
In attendance:	Cllr Keith Wakefield	-	Chair, WYCA Transport Committee
	Ben Still	-	WYCA
	Caroline Allen	-	WYCA
	Ruth Chaplin	-	WYCA

77. Chair's Comments

The Chair announced that this was the last meeting for Joanne Roney, Chief Executive of Wakefield MDC who had been appointed as the Chief Executive of Manchester City Council and also for Adrian Lythgo, Chief Executive of Kirklees Council who was retiring. Members passed on their best wishes and thanked them for their hard work for WYCA and their respective District Councils.

78. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andrew Carter.

79. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no pecuniary interests declared by members at the meeting.

80. Exempt Information – Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no items on the agenda requiring exclusion of the press and public.

81. Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 December 2016

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of WYCA held on 1 December 2016 be approved and signed by the Chair.

82. Devolution

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Policy, Strategy & Communications which provided an update on progress made in securing a second stage devolution deal for Leeds City Region (LCR), which is seeking to build on the first stage deal agreed with Government in spring 2015.

It was reported that no formal response had been received from Government on the Leeds City Region proposal submitted by WYCA in September 2015. However discussions had continued and Andrew Percy MP, the Minister for the Northern Powerhouse had met with West Yorkshire Leaders and the Chair, LCR Enterprise Partnership in December 2016.

Members expressed their desire to secure a devolution deal and discussed the ongoing challenges, recognising that other options, based on a larger geography, should be explored. They emphasised the need for clarity about, and understanding of, the policy options for securing a devolution deal and highlighted the importance of engaging with Government and consulting with businesses and communities. It was proposed to hold discussions with Authorities across the region to explore the most appropriate options.

Resolved:

- (i) That the ongoing challenges related to securing Government agreement to a transformative mayoral devolution deal for Leeds City Region be noted.
- (ii) That a formal response be requested from Government on the proposal for a Leeds City Region deal which was submitted to HM Treasury in September 2015, and seek to agree a way forward.
- (iii) That other policy options that could secure transformative devolution to Leeds City Region, and deliver the best deal for Yorkshire be explored including possible geographic footprints and related governance arrangements such as a model based on a single Mayor with multiple Combined Authorities representing the distinct functional economic market areas of any larger area.

- (iv) That discussions with Authorities across the region, and a wider community conversation, to explore the most appropriate options be supported.

83. East Coast Main Line Priorities

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Policy, Strategy & Communications on the proposed priorities for services and infrastructure on the East Coast Main Line (ECML).

Members noted the six proposed priorities detailed in the submitted report which were to be pursued working with Transport for the North, HS2, Network Rail, the wider rail industry and Government. It was noted that the priorities were in line with and built on those of the Consortium of East Coast Main Line Authorities. The Transport Committee had endorsed the proposed priorities at their meeting on 9 December 2016 and members asked that their thanks be passed to Councillor Keith Wakefield, Chair of the Transport Committee and Councillor Eric Firth who represented WYCA on the Consortium of East Coast Main Line Authorities (ECMA) for their work.

It was reported that the ECMA had undertaken some communications activity but it was suggested that the Leeds City Region LEP, working with other LEPs and the Scottish Government, play a greater advocacy role in voicing the need for ongoing investment in the ECML.

Resolved:

- (i) That the East Coast Main Line priorities endorsed by the Transport Committee and outlined in the submitted report be agreed.
- (ii) That the proposal for the Leeds City Region LEP, working with other LEPs and the Scottish Government, to play a greater advocacy role in voicing the need for ongoing investment in the ECML be noted.

84. Industrial Strategy

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Policy, Strategy & Communications on the Government's Modern Industrial Strategy Green Paper which had been published on 23 January 2017.

Members noted the key issues outlined in the report which also provided information about particular challenges in the Leeds City Region (LCR). They welcomed the Green Paper as it would provide an opportunity to highlight the needs of the Leeds City Region including the importance of education and skills to promote good growth in the response.

It was reported that the LEP Board had provided initial views at their meeting held on 24 January 2017 and it was proposed that WYCA/LEP co-ordinate a full draft city

region wide response to the Government's consultation. It was considered that Government and West Yorkshire MPs should be lobbied to ensure they are fully aware of the aims and ambition of the LCR. Discussions would be held with local authorities and partners to establish and develop the city region response for submission by 17 April 2017. This, together with further detail about how an inclusive strategy might mean better outcomes for businesses and residents, particularly the most deprived, would be considered by WYCA at its meeting to be held on 6 April 2017.

Resolved:

- (i) That publication of Government's Modern Industrial Strategy green paper be noted.
- (ii) That WYCA agrees with the proposed outline response, particularly to work through the LEP Network and other structures to make the funding announced in the Autumn Statement an opportunity to deliver the Heseltine Review through stronger local decision-making over a single pot. Further, this response will reiterate that a step-change improvement in outcomes depends on ambitious devolved powers.
- (iii) That the draft response be considered at the next meeting.
- (iv) That the likely requirements for further resources and cross city-region activity to fully exploit the potential for an inclusive industrial strategy with ambitious devolved powers be noted.

85. WYCA Corporate Plan and Budget 2017/18

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Resources which:

- set out the outline corporate plan for the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for 2017/18 and its strategic aims on behalf of local people;
- sought approval to the proposed revenue budget and transport levy for 2017/18, the indicative capital programme and the treasury management statement.

Corporate Plan 2017/18

It was reported that the Corporate Plan was in the process of being developed. It was proposed that this would follow a similar format to the previous year, showing achievements to date and setting out the targets and measures. A high level summary of the draft targets for 2017/18 was attached at Appendix A and the final full version of the corporate plan would be brought to a future meeting.

Revenue Budget 2017/18

Members considered the revenue budget and transport levy for 2017/18.

It was proposed that the transport levy applied for revenue purposes of £95m be cut by £1m. This would require cuts of £2m in expenditure due to pressures on the budget and timing delays in the receipt of income from business rates on the Leeds Aire Valley Enterprise Zone. The challenges in setting a balanced budget in future years given the increase in demand for services and the reductions in local government funding were noted. The net and gross levy by population showing the effect of the decrease was set out in Table 3 of the submitted report together with the rebates due to each District. The District Councils would be notified of the transport levy by mid-February and would make payments in ten monthly instalments to WYCA from 1 April 2017.

Capital Programme 2016/17 and 2017/18

WYCA noted the capital programme for 2017/18 and subsequent years and the indicative capital programme which were outlined in the submitted report.

It was reported that the Investment Committee had considered the individual projects within the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund (WY+TF) and would continue to be a key part of the process whereby Growth Deal and other projects are considered and recommended for progression. It was proposed that the arrangements for the Transport Committee to approve Integrated Block funded projects up to a value of £3m be continued for 2017/18.

Treasury Management

Members noted the annual Prudential Statement which was attached at Appendix B. This set out the treasury management activity in the year and the prudential indicators resulting from the indicative capital programme.

It was noted that further work will continue into the early part of 2017/18 to ensure the budgets are being maximised and used most effectively to deliver the organisational priorities.

Resolved:

- (i) That the approach to the corporate plan for 2017/18 be endorsed.
- (ii) That the revised budget for 2016/17 and the proposed budget for 2017/18 for WYCA be approved.
- (iii) That the indicative capital programme for 2017/18 – 2019/20 be approved.

- (iv) That the Transport Committee be delegated to approve individual schemes within the integrated transport block of the 2017/18 capital programme up to a maximum cost of £3m.
- (v) That in accordance with the powers contained in the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended) and by virtue of article 9(6) of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Order and the Transport Levying Bodies Regulations 2015 (as amended) a levy of £106m be determined for the year ended 31 March 2018.
- (vi) That the Chief Financial Officer be authorised to issue the levy letter in respect of the financial year ending 31 March 2018 to the five District Councils in West Yorkshire.
- (vii) That a payment of £5.099m be made to the District Councils in accordance with table 3 of the report.
- (viii) That the Chief Financial officer be authorised to arrange appropriate funding for all expenditure in 2016/17 and 2017/18 subject to statutory limitation, including the most appropriate application of capital funding as set out in the report.
- (ix) That the adoption of the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Public Services be reaffirmed.
- (x) That the treasury management policy as set out in Appendix B be approved.
- (xi) That the prudential limits for the next three years as set out in Appendix B be adopted.

86. LCR Assurance Framework

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Delivery which provided an update on progress relating to changes proposed to the Leeds City Region Assurance Framework arising from its annual review, and with the recently issued "LEP National Assurance Framework".

Members considered the current draft of the document which was attached to the submitted report and discussed the substantive changes from the previous document and the scope of the framework.

It was reported that the LEP Board had considered the draft document at its last meeting and given the deadline for submission of the final document, had agreed that the LEP Board Chair could approve the final version on its behalf. In addition, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's SEP Delivery Working Group had been involved and challenged the development of the Assurance Framework and were content with the process at this stage. The document was to be submitted to HM

Government by 28 February 2017 and an Action Plan would accompany the document setting out how the Assurance Framework will be implemented and evolve over the coming year. The SEP Delivery Working Group would continue with its scrutiny as it is a 'live' document and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would monitor its implementation through the Action Plan. The Authority authorised WYCA's Managing Director to finalise the content of the Assurance Framework in consultation with the Chair of the Authority and the Chair of the LEP Board and to make further changes as appropriate and to update WYCA and the LEP Board on an annual basis.

Resolved:

- (i) That the draft Assurance Framework be approved
- (ii) That WYCA's Managing Director be authorised to finalise the content of the Assurance Framework in consultation with the Chair of the Authority and the Chair of the LEP Board and to submit the document to Government by 28 February 2017.
- (iii) That it be noted that further changes and updates to the Assurance Framework are anticipated during the year and WYCA's Managing Director be authorised to make such further changes as appropriate and to update the Authority and the LEP Board on an annual basis.

87. Capital Spending and Project Approvals

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Delivery which sought approval for the progression of and funding for schemes from the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund and Local Growth Fund.

The report provided details of the projects which had been considered by the Investment Committee on 4 January 2017 and were recommended to WYCA for progression and approval of funding. The report mapped each of the projects across to the assurance process.

Resolved:

- (i) That the funding for the **Parking Extensions and Rail Stations** proposals is accepted into the portfolio (ie. satisfies Activity 1) and that funding of £138,000 to carry out the pre-feasibility work be approved. The project will be funded from the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund.
- (ii) That **Project Beta** be accepted into the pipeline and continues to Activity 4 (full business case).

- (iii) That funding of £5.556m for the **Wakefield Kirkgate** scheme to progress through Decision Point 5 (final cost approval) to Activity 6 (delivery of preferred solution) be approved.
- (iv) That it be noted that the Investment Committee has delegated the final details of the individual approvals to WYCA's Managing Director for the progression of, and funding for, the following schemes from the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund (WY+TF):-
- grant funding of £286k is approved for the **Leeds A6110 Outer Ring Road Improvements** to fund project development through to Activity 3 (outline business case);
 - funding of £140k is approved for the **A629 Halifax to Huddersfield Corridor Improvements** to fund the baseline monitoring and evaluation activity, enabling the first delivery phase (Phase 1a) to progress through the Assurance process;
 - funding of £670k is approved for the **South Elmsall Rail Station Car Park Extension** to progress through Decision Point 5 (final cost approval) to Activity 6 (delivery of preferred solution);
 - **Rail Car Park Extensions at Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd, Shipley, Steeton and Silsden, Fitzwilliam, Mirfield and Normanton** be progressed through Decision Point 5 (final cost approval) to Activity 6 (delivery of preferred solution), subject to the current approved projects costs as set out in the report not increasing by more than 10%.

88. Leeds City Region Housing Policy Position Statement

The Authority considered a report for information of the Director of Policy, Strategy & Communications on the draft Leeds City Region Housing Policy Position Statement developed by the City Region Land and Assets Board, which is intended to update existing WYCA and Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) housing policy as currently set out in the 2014 Leeds City Region Housing and Regeneration Strategy.

It was noted that a White Paper on housing was due to be published in March 2017 but it was not expected that any major changes would be required to the Policy Position Statement. Members discussed the challenges of delivering the housing strategy and it was noted that this would be discussed further by the Leaders and a report prepared for consideration at the next meeting of WYCA.

Resolved:

- (i) That the draft Leeds City Region Housing Policy Position Statement be updated in light of the forthcoming Government statements on housing, and

in consideration of linkages to the parallel work underway on inclusive growth.

- (ii) That the refreshed evidence base summarised in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be noted.
- (iii) That the draft Leeds City Region Housing Policy Position Statement be considered in more detail at the next meeting.

89. Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Governance & Audit Committee held on 1 December 2016

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Governance & Audit Committee held on 1 December 2016 be noted.

90. Minutes of the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 7 December 2016

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 7 December 2016 be noted.

91. Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Transport Committee held on 9 December 2016

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Transport Committee held on 9 December 2016 be noted.

92. Draft Minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee held on 4 January 2017

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee held on 4 January 2017 be noted.