

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON THURSDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2024 AT COMMITTEE ROOM 1,
WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS**

Present:

Mayor Tracy Brabin (Chair)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Council
Councillor Jane Scullion	Calderdale Council
Councillor Carole Pattison	Kirklees Council
Councillor James Lewis	Leeds City Council
Mandy Ridyard	West Yorkshire Business Board
Councillor Martin Love	Bradford Council
Councillor Alan Lamb	Leeds City Council
Councillor Stewart Golton (Substitute)	Leeds City Council

In attendance:

Councillor Barry Anderson	Chair of Scrutiny Committee
Ben Still	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alan Reiss	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Simon Warburton	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Sarah Eaton	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Dave Haskins	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Felix Kumi-Ampofo	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Angela Taylor	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Tim Taylor	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Caroline Norreys	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Myles Larrington	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Claire Douglas (York Council), Cllr Sue Holdsworth (Calderdale Council) and Cllr Denise Jeffery (Wakefield Council). Cllr Stewart Golton (Leeds Council) attended as a substitute for Cllr Holdsworth.

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests at the meeting.

3. Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Chair advised members that Agenda Item 7 – Bradford Interchange - Next Steps (Appendix 3) and Agenda Item 12 – Under 19's Travel Scheme (Appendix 1) had been identified by officers as containing exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and where officers had considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons outlined in the report.

The Combined Authority was asked to accept the recommendation in respect of the agenda item listed above, which was unanimously agreed.

Resolved: That in accordance with paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item 7 – Bradford Interchange - Next Steps (Appendix 3) and Agenda Item 12 – Under 19's Travel Scheme (Appendix 1) on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information and for the reasons set out in the report that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 19 September 2024

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Combined Authority held on 19 September 2024 were approved as a correct record.

5. Mayor's Update

The Chair opened the meeting by indicating that reflections on the recent budget would follow. Since the last meeting, the Chair had led a trade delegation to the United States (US), signing a Health Tech Bridge Memorandum of Understanding with Nashville and meeting with key officials to enhance trade and investment ties. Existing relationships with US investors had been strengthened.

The Chair also discussed Arriva Yorkshire's proposed bus service reductions due to driver shortages and shared an update on efforts to mitigate impacts.

The Chair had also joined a recent meeting of the Council of Mayors remotely to discuss the forthcoming English Devolution Bill.

6. The Autumn Statement 2024

The Combined Authority considered a report summarising its submission for the Government's Autumn Statement. Officers introduced the report, detailing collaborative efforts with local authority partners to influence budget outcomes. The submission sought a long-term financial settlement, maximisation of devolution opportunities, and assurance on previous government

commitments.

Members reflected on the recent budget announcement, praising Rachel Reeves as the first female Chancellor to have delivered a Budget, especially as she was an MP from Leeds. While recognising the difficult choices, members valued measures such as increased NHS funding, a national minimum wage increase, and renewed investment in the West Yorkshire Mass Transit and TransPennine Route projects.

Concerns were raised about funding cuts for cultural projects, especially for the British Library North, with commitments to seek alternative resources. Members welcomed business rate relief and fuel duty freezes but highlighted cost challenges for SMEs, especially wage and tax increases. Additionally, concerns included the impact of funding cuts on local growth plans, transport, and potential effects on West Yorkshire's farming and public sectors, underscoring the need for further financial clarity and regional representation.

The Chief Executive informed members that the published report had included a resolution requesting delegated authority for him to make in-year budget decisions based on the Chancellor's Autumn Statement. However, he confirmed this authority was no longer needed, so the resolution was removed, leaving only a resolution to note the submission made to Government.

Resolved: That the Combined Authority noted the submission made to Government to influence Government thinking in advance of the Autumn Budget.

7. **Bradford Interchange - Next Steps**

The Combined Authority considered a report updating members on the closure of Bradford Interchange bus station, which occurred on 5 January 2024 due to health and safety concerns following concrete falls. The report highlighted initial and ongoing surveys, confirming the structure's condition and outlining proposed reopening plans.

Officers introduced the report, detailing that interim findings indicated a staged reopening could proceed, with the lower concourse having already opened earlier in the week. Ongoing works were set to resume safely, including resurfacing and waterproofing. A phased reopening was planned, with the upper concourse anticipated to open on 5 January 2025. Additionally, future strategies for a new bus station were discussed, aiming for improved transport integration in Bradford city centre.

Members welcomed the decision to re-open Bradford's bus station and stressed the importance of clear communication to reduce confusion, especially given the phased opening. They expressed relief at the progress made but requested reassurances about ongoing passenger communications. Officers noted the extensive preparations, budget constraints, and phased re-opening, highlighting the need for up-to-date information to ensure smooth operations. Members emphasised the importance of learning lessons from this process, advocating for proactive asset management and scrutiny. They

appreciated recent improvements in communication, which recognised the vital role of members in keeping the public informed.

Resolved: That, having considered the information contained in the report, Bradford Interchange be reopened on a phased basis in accordance with the proposals set out in the report.

8. Local Growth Plan

The Combined Authority considered a report that provided an update on the West Yorkshire Local Growth Plan and the Government's Industrial Strategy Green Paper. Officers introduced the report, noting that the Local Growth Plan emerged from extensive partnership work and engagement. The report highlighted West Yorkshire's potential as a modern industry centre and outlined ongoing collaboration with the Government on sector propositions.

Members noted the absence of decision-making resolutions in the report, questioning if deadlines were being adhered to. The Chair highlighted the importance of budget clarity for the growth plan and acknowledged local partnerships. Officers clarified the submission date related to central government timelines.

Resolved: That the progress of the Local Growth Plan be noted.

9. Employment and Skills System Review

The Combined Authority considered a report on the progress of the Employment and Skills System Review.

Officers introduced the report, highlighting the need for improvement in West Yorkshire's employment and skills system due to a skills shortage. They outlined the interim findings and the final report's recommendations, which included maintaining the Combined Authority's role in devolution, enhancing collaboration among authorities, and establishing the Employment and Skills Officers Group to guide the system's design.

Members emphasised the need for reports to be written in a way which made them easier to read and more accessible for the public to digest. The Mayor agreed with the importance of accessible documents. The Chief Executive endorsed these comments and assured members that improvements would be made to future reports.

Members also highlighted the significance of community engagement, while the Mayor expressed a desire to enhance skills for job mobility.

Resolved:

- (i) The Combined Authority endorsed the recommendations set out within the final summary report by Shared Intelligence.
- (ii) The Combined Authority delegated approval of an Implementation Plan

to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive in consultation with the chair of the Economy Committee.

10. **Adult Education Budget Procurement**

The Combined Authority considered an update report on the withdrawal of the Adult Education Budget procurement opportunity.

Officers introduced the report, detailing that the Combined Authority had paused the £7 million procurement to address scoring concerns, which inadvertently eroded bidder confidence. Consequently, the decision was made to suspend and re-run the procurement, ensuring all issues were rectified and relationships with providers restored.

The Chief Executive highlighted the need to rebuild trust in the system. He suggested a fresh start with procurement methods, advocating for a proactive commissioning model. Officers assured members that challenges were being addressed and mitigations implemented. The Mayor welcomed the learning opportunity to strengthen systems and improve trust.

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the issues and actions taken to remedy.

11. **Project Approvals**

(a) Project Approvals - Investment Priority 2 – Skills and Training for People

Skills Bootcamp – Wave 6

Resolved: The Combined Authority, subject to confirmation of additional funding from the Department for Education:

- (i) Approved the change request to the Skills Bootcamp programme, and:
 - Accepted £7,667,357 additional funding from Wave 6 of the Department for Education's Skills Bootcamp programme, increasing the total programme funding to £20,005,909 from £12,338,552.
 - Extended the programme delivery (decision point 5) timeframes from April 2025 to March 2026.
 - Increased the number of potential individuals who were given opportunities to retrain and improve their skills by 1,450, from 3,000 to 4,450.
- (i) Approved that future approvals were made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This was subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

(b) Project Approvals - Investment Priority 3 – Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure

Brownfield Housing Programme delegation of approval of schemes to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive

Resolved: The Combined Authority approved that:

- (i) The Brownfield Housing Fund, Wellington Square scheme was delegated for approval to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive.

Brownfield Housing Fund Mabgate Yard

Resolved: The Combined Authority, subject to conditions:

- (i) Approved that the Brownfield Housing Fund Mabgate Yard scheme proceeded through decision point 4 (full business case) and work commenced on activity 5 (delivery).
- (ii) Approved the Combined Authority's contribution of £4,000,000. The total scheme cost was £92,460,597.
- (iii) Approved that the Combined Authority entered into a funding agreement with My Devco Limited for expenditure of up to £4,000,000.
- (iv) Approved that future approvals were made in accordance with the assurance pathway, approval route, and tolerances outlined in this report. This was subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

Delegated Decisions

Resolved: The Combined Authority, noted the following delegated decisions:

- (i) That the following six Brownfield Housing Fund (BHF) projects were assessed in line with the Combined Authority's assurance process and approved through the agreed delegation to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive / Director of Policing, Environment and Place: BHF High Street Hebden Bridge, BHF Armley Tower Works, BHF Newsome Mill (South Huddersfield), BHF Copperfields (Leeds East), BHF Mabgate (Burmantofts), and BHF Parkwood Mills.
 - (ii) That the schemes will proceed through decision points 5 and 6 (delivery and financial closure) of the Combined Authority's assurance process.
 - (iii) That the total grant allocation was £6,554,775 for the 6 BHF projects to be returned to the BHF Programme.
- (c) Project Approvals - Investment Priority 4 – Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability**

Home Energy West Yorkshire

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

- (i) Approved the change request to the Home Energy West Yorkshire Programme for development funding of £1,260,000 to cover the next phase of programme development, to progress with shaping and scoping new, innovative, and ambitious projects to deliver domestic net zero, taking the total programme-related costs approval to £6,888,585.
- (ii) Approved that future approvals were made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This was subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.
- (iii) Noted the Combined Authority's potential contribution of £30,300,281. The total programme cost was £30,300,281.

(d) Project Approvals - Investment Priority 5 – Delivering Sustainable, Integrated, Inclusive and Affordable Transport

Bus Service Improvement Plan - Mobility Credits - delegation of approval of schemes to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

- (i) Approved the delegation of authority to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive to approve, in accordance with the Assurance Framework, the Bus Service Improvement Plan Mobility Credits scheme.

Steeton and Silsden Cycling and Walking Improvements

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

- (i) Approved that the Steeton and Silsden Cycling and Walking Improvements scheme proceeded through decision point 3 (outline business case) and work commenced on activity 4 (full business case).
- (ii) Approved further development funding of £2,737,792, in order to progress Phase 1 only of the scheme to decision point 4 (full business case), taking the total scheme approval from £700,000 to £3,437,792.
- (iii) Approved that the Combined Authority entered into an addendum to the existing funding agreement with City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council for funding of up to £3,437,792.
- (iv) Approved that future approvals were made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the report, subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the report.
- (v) Noted the Combined Authority's potential funding of £12,820,060 for Phase 1. The total scheme cost was £12,920,060 for Phase 1 and £11,129,875 for Phase 2. £3,670,237 of the Phase 1 total scheme cost

was for risk and contingency allowances.

Corridor Improvement Programme A629 North - Orange Street

Resolved: The Combined Authority, subject to the Levelling Up Fund Phase 2 programme business case from the Department for Transport and the conditions set:

- (i) Approved that the Corridor Improvement Programme A629 North - Orange Street scheme proceeded through decision point 4 (full business case) and work commenced on activity 5 (delivery).
- (ii) Approved the Combined Authority's funding of £3,578,149. The total scheme cost was £3,578,149.
- (iii) Approved that the Combined Authority entered into an addendum to the existing funding agreement with Calderdale Council for funding of up to £3,578,149.
- (iv) Approved that future approvals were made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the report, subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the report.
- (v) Noted that £536,249 of the total scheme cost was for risk and contingency allowances.

Part 1 Claims

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following regarding Part 1 claims:

- (i) The Combined Authority acknowledged the need for additional funding for Part 1 claims related to the Wakefield Eastern Relief Road and Glasshoughton Southern Link Road, exceeding previously approved amounts.
- (ii) The Combined Authority confirmed that Part 1 claims can be submitted for up to six years following the opening of a new road, with eligibility requiring homeowners to have lived in their properties for at least twelve months prior to the road's opening.
- (iii) The Combined Authority noted that claims include compensation for property devaluation caused by noise, vibration, light pollution, and associated legal costs for both homeowners and partner councils.
- (iv) The Combined Authority reaffirmed the obligation of partner councils to promptly pay valid claims to avoid accruing daily interest from the date a claim is deemed valid until payment is made.
- (v) The Combined Authority resolved to manage future funding for Part 1 claims centrally, allocating £10,000,000 from the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund, with a structured claims process through PIMS, clear

approval channels for fund release, and the necessity for change requests if claims exceed the allocated amount.

Wakefield Eastern Relief Road

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

- (i) Approved the change request to the Wakefield Eastern Relief Road scheme to increase the Combined Authority's funding by £3,400,000, raising it to £40,993,000 from £37,593,000. The total scheme cost was £40,993,000.
- (ii) Approved that the Combined Authority entered into a funding agreement with Wakefield Council for funding of up to £3,400,000.

Glasshoughton Southern Link Road

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

- (i) Approved the change request to the Glasshoughton Southern Link Road scheme to increase the Combined Authority's funding by £900,000, raising it to £6,650,797 from £5,750,797. The total scheme cost was £6,650,797.
- (ii) Approved that the Combined Authority entered into a Funding Agreement with Wakefield Council for funding of up to £900,000.
- (iii) Approved that £471,600 of funding was paid to Wakefield Council and that the balance of £428,400 was to be paid upon receipt of supporting evidence of part 1 claims.
- (iv) Approved the delegation of authority to the Combined Authority's Executive Director for Transport to approve future payments of part 1 claims within the approved funding.

Delegated Decisions:

Decisions Delegated to the Transport Committee:

A660 Lawnswood Roundabout

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following delegated decisions:

- (i) That the A660 Lawnswood Roundabout project was assessed in line with the Combined Authority's assurance process and approved through the agreed delegation to the Combined Authority's Transport Committee.
- (ii) That the project received approval to proceed, subject to conditions, through decision point 4 (full business case), and that work commenced on activity 5 (delivery) on 14 October 2024.

- (iii) That the funding approved for the project was £12,373,478, with total scheme costs amounting to £12,949,080.
- (iv) That the total value of Combined Authority funding for the project was £12,373,478.

Decisions Delegated to the Chief Executive:

Transforming Cities Fund – Bradford City Centre Cycling & Walking Improvements

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following delegated decisions:

- (i) That the Transforming Cities Fund – Bradford City Centre Cycling and Walking Improvements scheme was assessed in line with the Combined Authority’s assurance process and approved through the agreed delegation.
- (ii) That the change request to increase the Combined Authority’s funding to the scheme was approved on 1 October 2024 to fund additional bus and public space improvements and to discharge conditions set at decision point 4 (full business case).
- (iii) That the funding approved for the scheme was £1,922,069, with total scheme costs amounting to £45,188,069.
- (iv) That the total value of Combined Authority funding for the scheme was £45,088,069.

ATF4: Ackworth to Fitzwilliam Station

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following delegated decisions:

- (i) That the ATF4: Ackworth to Fitzwilliam Station scheme was assessed in line with the Combined Authority’s assurance process and approved, subject to conditions, on 15 October 2024, for the business justification case (BJC) to commence delivery.
- (ii) That the scheme will provide a high-quality, LTN 1/20 compliant, largely traffic-free cycle and walking route between Ackworth and Fitzwilliam Station.
- (iii) That the funding approved for the scheme was £2,555,735, which is also the total value of the scheme and the total value of Combined Authority funding.

ATF4: Grandstand Road, Wakefield

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following delegated decisions:

- (i) That the ATF4: Grandstand Road, Wakefield scheme was assessed in line with the Combined Authority’s assurance process and approved on

15 October 2024 for the business justification case (BJC) to commence delivery.

- (ii) That the scheme will provide improved walking and cycling facilities between key employment sites in the Grandstand Road area to the north of Wakefield and Outwood Station.
- (iii) That the funding approved for the scheme was £264,601, with a total value of the scheme amounting to £571,601.
- (iv) That the total value of Combined Authority funding for the scheme was £264,601.

Decisions Delegated to the Executive Director for Transport:

A62 to Cooper Bridge Improvements

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following delegated decisions:

- (i) That the A62 to Cooper Bridge Improvements scheme was assessed in line with the Combined Authority's assurance process and that approval was granted on 25 September 2024 to the change request to revise the scheme's scope and release development costs to support the costs of resubmitting the Phase 1 outline business case.
- (ii) That the funding approved for the scheme was £329,845.
- (iii) That the total indicative scheme costs amounted to £125,030,132.
- (iv) That the Combined Authority's potential funding for the scheme was £53,512,739.

Mirfield – Dewsbury – Leeds

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following delegated decisions:

- (i) That the Mirfield – Dewsbury – Leeds scheme was paused at the outline business case stage, with a change request to be submitted before any work resumed on the full business case, and that approval was granted on 26 September 2024 for the scheme to return £5,250,000 to the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund, resulting in a reduction of Combined Authority funding to £1,935,000.
- (ii) The approval for the release of £150,000 in outstanding development costs to Leeds City Council.
- (iii) That the funding approved for the scheme was £150,000.
- (iv) That the total value of the scheme was to be confirmed (TBC).
- (v) That the total value of Combined Authority funding was £1,935,000.

Huddersfield Station Gateway

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following delegated decisions:

- (i) That the change request for the Huddersfield Station Gateway scheme was approved on 8 October 2024, updating its outline business case (OBC) submission milestone date to March 2026 within the revised Grant Funding Agreement.
- (ii) That the funding approved for the scheme was nil.
- (iii) That the total value of the scheme was to be confirmed (TBC).
- (iv) That the total value of Combined Authority funding was £550,000.

TCF - Dewsbury – Batley – Chidswell Sustainable Travel Corridor

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following delegated decisions:

- (i) That the change request for the TCF - Dewsbury – Batley – Chidswell Sustainable Travel Corridor scheme was approved on 16 October 2024, releasing a further £434,785 in development costs, increasing the total approved funding from £1,775,000 to £2,209,785.
- (ii) That the total value of the scheme was £9,992,299.
- (iii) That the total value of Combined Authority funding was £9,992,299.

South East Bradford Access Road

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following delegated decisions:

- (i) That the project closure report for the South East Bradford Access Road was approved on 16 October 2024, with the development of the Outline Business Case (OBC) being stopped and the OBC not submitted to the Combined Authority.
- (ii) That the funding approved for the scheme was nil.
- (iii) That the total value of the scheme at the time it was stopped was £1,031,650.
- (iv) That the total value of Combined Authority funding was £1,031,650.

12. Under 19's Travel Scheme

The Combined Authority considered a report on the current status of the under-19 travel scheme, introduced in 2021, which provides discounted fares for young people.

The Chair acknowledged the importance of the scheme for young people

during the cost-of-living crisis, while noting that bus operators faced rising costs. The Chair proposed deferring the decision until funding clarity from the Government was available by convening an extraordinary meeting in November. Members supported this approach, highlighting fare disparities for young people in outer North Yorkshire areas.

Officers noted that about 6% of learners travelled outside West Yorkshire and stressed the need for clarity regarding government funding. The Chair requested data on young people's bus usage and the impact of the Mayor's Fares initiative.

Resolved: The Combined Authority agreed to defer consideration of the under-19 travel scheme to an extraordinary meeting to be scheduled in November 2024.

13. White Rose Forest Partnership Agreement

The Combined Authority considered an update report on the White Rose Forest programme which sought approval for West Yorkshire's participation in the White Rose Forest Agreement (2024-2030).

Officers introduced the report and highlighted key themes such as environmental recovery, tree planting and partnership goals to achieve long-term sustainability and biodiversity, aligning with the Mayor's climate and nature recovery commitments.

Members noted the project's success in tree planting and Kirklees Council's role as a key delivery partner. They also raised concerns about potential funding cuts for pan-regional partnerships, while the Chair assured members that this initiative would not be affected.

Resolved: The Combined Authority approved the West Yorkshire Combined Authority being a signatory to the White Rose Forest Agreement (2024–2030).

14. Business Planning and Budgets

The Combined Authority considered a report outlining the integrated business and budget planning approach for 2025/26.

Officers introduced the report, detailing progress towards a four-year Corporate Plan, including key priorities and budget challenges. Key risks included pressures from bus services, concessionary travel and the ongoing transition to bus franchising, alongside funding constraints and inflationary impacts.

Resolved:

- (i) The Combined Authority noted the multi-year planning approach that was being implemented for the four-year period (2024-2028).
- (ii) The Combined Authority considered the budget challenges and risks.

15. Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-24

The Combined Authority considered a report on the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2023/24, which highlighted the work of the three former scrutiny committees during the municipal year.

Officers presented the report, which had been approved by the new single Scrutiny Committee on 20 September 2024. The 2023/24 Scrutiny Annual Report assessed the activities of the Combined Authority's previous three scrutiny committees, highlighting areas such as economic strategy, affordable housing and transport. Key focuses included bus franchising, Mayor's Question Time and the FlexiBus pilot evaluation. The transition to a single committee structure for 2024/25 aimed to enhance oversight, emphasising external expertise, accountability and ongoing commitment to regional governance improvements.

The Chair of Scrutiny, Cllr Barry Anderson, reported meeting with every member and senior management to align interests and roles, with a forthcoming report to a future Combined Authority meeting detailing their work plan and priorities. A member highlighted the potential for collaboration with district scrutiny committees to ensure local voices were heard in decisions by facilitating more affective issue escalation from constituent authorities.

Resolved: That the Combined Authority noted the Scrutiny Committee's annual report, which summarised the work undertaken by the previous overview and scrutiny committees in 2023/24.

16. Governance Arrangements

The Combined Authority considered a report proposing a number of governance changes relating both to membership of committees and officer arrangements.

Officers introduced the report and advised members of further changes to the proposed membership of the Economy Committee which had been notified since publication of the agenda. The changes included Private Sector Representative, Richard Paxman, moving from the Economy Committee to join the West Yorkshire Business Board, and Advisory Representatives, Sue Cooke and Martin Stow, joining the new Committee as Higher Education representatives in place of Peter O'Brien.

The report also contained a proposal to appoint two independent members to the Governance & Audit Committee and asked members to note the appointment by the Scrutiny Committee of two Vice-Chairs, Cllrs Richard Smith and Matt Edwards.

The report further set out detailed proposals for changes to the process for appointing, disciplining, and dismissing senior officers, including the establishment of a new Employment Panel.

The report aimed to ensure that governance arrangements were fit for

purpose and reflected the new structure of the Combined Authority.

Resolved:

- (i) That the membership of the Economy Committee as set out in Appendix 1 of the report subject to the following revisions: removal of Richard Paxman and Peter O'Brien and addition of Sue Cooke and Martin Stow as the Higher Education Advisory representatives.
- (ii) That David Merrett and Rob Winter be appointed as independent members of the Governance and Audit Committee.
- (iii) That changes to the membership of the Combined Authority's committees be noted.
- (iv) That the appointment of a Capital Programme Director made by the Chief Executive under authority delegated by the Combined Authority be noted.
- (v) That the procedure for Chief Officer appointment, discipline, and dismissal as set out within the report be adopted.
- (vi) That the resulting amendments to the constitution as set out at Appendix 2 of the report (Part 3 - Section 2.2 - Non-Mayoral Functions - reserved functions) be approved, and authority delegated to the Assistant Director Legal, Governance & Compliance, to make all and any consequential amendments to the Combined Authority's Constitution including the Procedure Standing Orders (Part 4 – Section 4.1 – Procedure Standing Orders).
- (vii) That an Employment Panel be appointed with the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix 3 of the report.
- (viii) That the continuing work of Human Resources in amending the Combined Authority's Grievance, Capability, and Disciplinary policies, (where the new procedure for Directors was reflected) be noted with the matrices attached at Appendices 4, 5, and 6 of the report forming part of those policies.

17. Minutes for Information

The Combined Authority noted a report which provided details of published minutes and notes since the last meeting.

18. Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that an extraordinary meeting of the Combined Authority would be scheduled to be held in November.