



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 3 AUGUST 2017 AT COMMITTEE ROOM A, WELLINGTON  
HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS**

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**Present:**

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe (Chair)	Bradford Council
Councillor Tim Swift (Vice-Chair)	Calderdale Council
Councillor Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Council
Councillor Keith Aspden	York Council
Councillor Judith Blake CBE	Leeds City Council
Councillor Simon Cooke	Bradford Council
Councillor David Sheard	Kirklees Council
Councillor Nicola Turner	Kirklees Council
Professor Bob Cryan CBE	University of Huddersfield

**In attendance:**

Ben Still	WYCA
Caroline Allen	WYCA
Angela Taylor	WYCA (minute 38 only)
Angie Shearon	WYCA

**27. Appointment of the WYCA Chair**

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Resources in respect of a vacancy in the office having arisen to appoint a Chair of WYCA and review committee membership and committee chairing arrangements.

Councillor Box advised members that he was resigning as Chair of the Authority because he had been appointed to the national role of chairing the Key Cities Group. He would however remain a member of the Authority.

Members were asked to consider nominations for the position of Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe was proposed and seconded.

In reviewing committee membership, it was agreed that Councillor Box be appointed as Chair of the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee and Councillor David Sheard as Chair of the Steering Inclusive Growth Group.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe be appointed as Chair of the Authority.
- (ii) That Councillor Peter Box be appointed as Chair of the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee.
- (iii) That Councillor David Sheard be appointed as Chair of the Steering Inclusive Growth Group.

**28. Chair's Comments**

Councillor Hinchcliffe thanked members for their support and was honoured to be given the opportunity to lead the organisation and build on the partnership progress to ensure the City Region continued to prosper. She also thanked Councillor Box on behalf of the Authority for his chairmanship, experience and wisdom since WYCA was established in 2014.

Members echoed Councillor Hinchcliffe's comments and paid tribute to the achievements made during Councillor Box's leadership which included securing the largest City Region Growth Deal outside London and supporting businesses to grow and create jobs in the City Region.

In response, Councillor Box thanked members for their support over the last 3 years and said he looked forward to continuing to play a constructive role with WYCA.

Members also welcomed Councillor Nicola Turner to her first meeting of the Authority.

**29. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andrew Carter and Roger Marsh.

**30. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Judith Blake declared an other interest in Agenda Item 10, Transport for the North, as she is WYCA's representative on the Transport for the North Partnership Board.

**31. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

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

**32. Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 29 June 2017**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting of WYCA held on 29 June 2017 be approved and signed by the Chair.

### 33. Capital Spending and Project Approvals

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Delivery on the progression of and funding for the following schemes through WYCA's Assurance Process in line with WYCA's Assurance Framework:

- West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund Transformational Scheme – Wakefield South Featherstone Link Road
- West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund Transformational Scheme – York Outer Ring Road Dualling
- West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund Transformational Scheme –North Kirklees Orbital Route
- WYCA's Portfolio Information Management System
- Pothole Action Fund

Details of the schemes were outlined in the submitted report. In respect of the Pothole Action Fund, it was reported that the decision to allocate monies was a Key Decision which should have been published 28 days in advance of consideration of the item. However, in view of the importance of passporting the funding to the District Councils as quickly as possible, the decision could not be deferred to a future meeting. It was therefore agreed to take this decision under the rules of General Exception as detailed in paragraph 5.2.1 of the submitted report. Further information in respect of the Pothole Action Fund would be circulated to members.

#### **Resolved:**

- (i) In respect of **West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund Transformational Schemes - Wakefield South Featherstone Link Road -**

That following a recommendation from the Investment Committee, WYCA approves funding of £284k for the Wakefield South Featherstone Link Road scheme to progress through Decision Point 2 and develop a Strategic Case for the Transformational Project. In addition, that WYCA enter into a Funding Agreement with Wakefield Council for expenditure of up to £284K from the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund.

- (ii) In respect of **West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund Transformational Schemes – York Outer Ring Road Dualling -**

That following a recommendation from the Investment Committee, WYCA approves funding of £295k for the York Outer Ring Road Dualling scheme to progress through Decision Point 2 and develop a Strategic Case for the Transformational Project. In addition, that WYCA enter into a Funding Agreement with York Council for expenditure of up to £295K from the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund.

- (iii) In respect of **West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund Transformational Schemes - North Kirklees Orbital Route -**

That following a recommendation from the Investment Committee, WYCA approves funding of £248k for the North Kirklees Orbital Route scheme to progress through Decision Point 2 to develop a Strategic Case for the Transformational Project. In addition, that WYCA enter into a Funding Agreement with Kirklees Council for expenditure of up to £248K from the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund.

(iv) That in respect of **WYCA's Portfolio Information Management System** –

That following a recommendation from Investment Committee, WYCA approves:

- (a) That the Portfolio Information Management System (PIMS) proceeds through Decision Point 3 onto Stage 2 Activity 5 (Full Business Case with Finalised Costs).
  - (b) That an indicative approval to the total project value of £150k capital for the development of the system and £50k per annum on-going licence fee (the on-going licence fee will be required from 18/19 onwards), to be funded as an overhead cost from the overall Portfolio Management Office costs, is given. Ultimate approval to spend will be granted once the scheme has progressed through the Assurance Process to Decision Point 5 (Full Business Case with finalised costs).
  - (c) That the future approvals at Decision Point 5 are made through a delegation to WYCA's Managing Director following a recommendation by WYCA's Programme Appraisal Team. This approval route will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances set out in paragraph 3.1.6 of the submitted report.
- (v) That WYCA approves the £2.231m for the **Pothole Action Fund**, which will be funded from the DfT's allocation to WYCA.

### **34. A City Region Policy and Funding Framework for Inclusive Growth**

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Policy, Strategy & Communications and the Project Director for Inclusive Growth which sought WYCA's agreement to update its policy and funding framework to better foster inclusive growth.

Members welcomed the report and supported the proposal to broaden WYCA's policy remit to ensure a positive impact can be made on both direct and indirect drivers of inclusive growth. It would also allow WYCA and the LEP to better focus the funding programme to make more impact on business competitiveness and the living standards of city region residents.

It was acknowledged that transformation required funding and the opportunity of the industrial strategy and the new impetus in devolution negotiations would be used to secure further investment to address the funding gap that has emerged with other city regions.

The Authority noted the importance of working with the local authorities to add value and help inform decisions and the need to take immediate action and monitor progress was recognised.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That WYCA agrees, in principle, to broaden its policy remit to ensure it can make a positive impact on factors that drive inclusive growth.
- (ii) That the Steering Inclusive Growth Group (SIGG) be formalised into an Inclusive Growth Panel and a report be brought to a future meeting to set an appropriate remit over public services and tackling fuel poverty.
- (iii) That WYCA agrees, in principle, to review WYCA programmes to take account of inclusive growth, subject to the conditions on delegated funding.
- (iv) That it be noted that currently, funding streams are likely to prove insufficient and inflexible to resource a wider range of city region investment interventions. WYCA therefore seeks to maximise resources (eg. Shared Prosperity Fund) and secure more freedoms over in year spending.

**35. Transport Strategy Adoption**

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Policy, Strategy & Communications which sought WYCA's approval to adopt the West Yorkshire Transport Strategy.

A copy of the document, which set out the high level vision and policy aspirations for the transport system over the next 20 years had been circulated to members and could be viewed online via <http://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/transport-strategy/>.

Members expressed their concerns regarding the disparity of transport investment between the north and south of the country. It was recognised that all transport systems were in need of improvement as transport was a key driver for inclusive growth and the benefits an ambitious devolution deal would bring to the City Region were noted. Members discussed the current under-investment in respect of existing assets including highways maintenance and also for the development of new technologies/systems eg. ticketing and taxis.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the Transport Strategy, which sets out the high level vision and policy aspirations for the transport system over the next 20 years be adopted.
- (ii) That a decision on the final appearance and any minor amendments of the Transport Strategy for publication be delegated to WYCA's Managing Director in consultation with the Chair of the Transport Committee.
- (iii) That a progress report be prepared for a future meeting.

**36. Bus Strategy Adoption**

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Policy, Strategy & Communications which sought approval to adopt the West Yorkshire Bus Strategy.

In noting the summary document which was attached at Appendix 1, members were advised that initial steps in delivering the Strategy had commenced. It was noted that the Strategy set a target of 25% patronage growth from 2016 levels over the next 10 years. However, because of the level of housing and employment growth forecast, this could possibly be increased and had the potential to lead an economic uplift to the region's economy.

Members highlighted problems being experienced by those who relied on bus services to reach employment and areas which were socially isolated. They welcomed the aspirations of the Strategy and the successes reported to date which included park and ride facilities, the Bus 18 partnership and the £173.5m DfT funding to improve public transport in Leeds which focussed on developing bus services.

It was noted that the Bus Services Act 2017 and devolution will provide the City Region with the powers to enable the delivery of the full Bus Strategy.

The Authority asked for their thanks to be passed to the Transport Committee for overseeing the development of the Strategy and requested a progress report to a future meeting.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the Bus Strategy, which sets out the vision and policy aspirations for the bus system for the next 20 years, be adopted.
- (ii) That a progress report be prepared for a future meeting.

**37. Transport for the North**

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Policy, Strategy & Communications which sought:

- To re-affirm WYCA's commitment to agreed TfN priority areas.
- Consent in principle to the making of regulations by the Secretary of State for Transport to establish Transport for the North (TfN) as a Sub-National Transport Body (STB) under Section 102E of the Local Transport Act 2008.
- Subject to TfN being established as a STB, to agree the transfer of Rail North Limited to TfN, to enter into a new Rail Franchise Management Agreement with TfN and to make payments in respect of functions currently carried out by Rail North Ltd, to TfN.

Members confirmed WYCA's priorities for TfN and noted the implications for TfN becoming a statutory body which were detailed in the submitted report.

The Authority expressed concern regarding the Secretary of State for Transport's recent comments in respect of the Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU) as it was essential to have rail links across the North to drive forward economic growth. The TRU was a vital part of a phased approach to investment in the North as well as HS2 and members noted the importance of working with TfN to continue to press the case for such projects.

It was reported that a summit had been arranged for 23 August 2017 to discuss and consider the current position, concerns and opportunities for lobbying across the North.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That WYCA re-affirms its commitment to the priority areas set out in paragraph 2 of the submitted report.
- (ii) That WYCA consents in principle to the Secretary of State making regulations under Section 102E of the Local Transport Act 2008 to establish Transport for the North as a Sub-National Transport Body (STB), and delegates authority to WYCA's Managing Director, in consultation with the Chair of WYCA and with WYCA's representatives on the Transport for the North Partnership Board, to consent to the regulations once they have been finalised.
- (iii) That WYCA agrees in principle the transfer of Rail North Ltd to TfN, once TfN has been established as a STB, and delegates authority to WYCA's Managing Director to take any necessary steps on behalf of WYCA to effect this transfer.
- (iv) That WYCA agrees to enter a new Rail Franchise Management Agreement with TfN, once it has been established as a STB, on terms consistent with the Rail North Ltd Members' Agreement.
- (v) That WYCA agrees to fund TfN to carry out functions to supporting rail franchise management which are currently carried out by Rail North Ltd, on

the existing basis, once TfN is established as a STB, and has assumed those functions.

### **38. Proposed Pension Transfer**

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Resources which sought approval to a preferred way of meeting WYCA's element of pension obligations towards First Group, in response to consultation on a Secretary of State Direction on this matter.

It was noted that currently WYCA was required to pay an element of pension increase relating to people who were previously employed by the former West Yorkshire PTE and Yorkshire Rider who are now part of First Group. First Group were now seeking to consolidate its pension arrangements to Greater Manchester and members discussed the options outlined in the submitted report.

#### **Resolved:**

- (i) That Option 1, Bulk Asset Transfer, was the preferred option and that further work should be undertaken with regard to the proposed transfer of First Group pension arrangements.
- (ii) That a report be prepared for a future meeting of WYCA for decision but should timelines dictate an urgent decision to be made, then that authority be delegated to WYCA's Managing Director in consultation with the Chair.

### **39. Governance Arrangements**

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Resources in respect of an appointment to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

It was noted that the City of York Council had notified WYCA of a change in one of their nominations to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and that Councillor Jenny Brooks would replace Councillor Helen Douglas.

**Resolved:** That the City of York Council's revised nomination to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted and Councillor Jenny Brooks be co-opted onto the Committee in place of Councillor Helen Douglas.

### **40. Minutes of the Meeting of the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee held on 16 June 2017**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee held on 16 June 2017 be noted.

**41. Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee held on 12 July 2017**

**Resolved:** That the draft minutes of the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee held on 12 July 2017 be noted.