

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON THURSDAY, 27 JULY 2023 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 James Lewis	Leeds City Council
Councillor Rebecca Poulsen	Bradford Council
Councillor Alan Lamb	Leeds City Council
Councillor Claire Douglas	City of York Council
Councillor Matthew Morley (Substitute)	Wakefield Council
Councillor Stewart Golton (Substitute)	Leeds City Council

In attendance:

Ben Still	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alan Reiss	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Melanie Corcoran	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Felix Kumi-Ampofo	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Liz Hunter	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Angela Taylor	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Caroline Allen	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Ian Parr	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

21. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jeffery, Cllr Holdsworth, Cllr Pandor, Cllr Scott and Mandy Ridyard.

The Mayor welcomed Felix Kumi-Ampofo, the new director of Inclusive Economy, Skills, and Culture to his first Combined Authority meeting.

The Mayor noted that Cllr Shabir Pandor had resigned as leader of Kirklees Council with immediate effect on 26 July 2023. The Mayor expressed thanks to Cllr Pandor for his support, his championing of inclusivity and growth, and his leadership of Kirklees throughout the pandemic and the difficult economic landscape. The Mayor noted that a new leader would be selected, and Cllr Cathy Scott, the current Deputy Leader, would assume the leadership role until then.

The Mayor highlighted the national closure of train station ticket offices which would close all West Yorkshire ticket offices apart from Bradford, Huddersfield, and Leeds, and would negatively impact the accessibility of stations as well as the employment of the staff affected. The Mayor informed the members of the intention to submit a legal challenge regarding the lawfulness of the consultation in conjunction with other Mayoral Combined Authorities. The Mayor noted that the Rail Delivery Group had announced an extension of the consultation until 1 September 2023, and the Combined Authority was awaiting a response from operators which would inform the actions taken.

22. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

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

There were no items identified as exempt from the press and public.

24. Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 22 June 2023

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 22 June 2023 be approved and signed by the Chair.

25. West Yorkshire Investment Strategy Review

Members considered a report to endorse the revisions made to the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy through the annual review process

The Mayor noted the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy was a key document to inform the prioritisation of investments, and the updates reflected the current economic landscape and the missions of the West Yorkshire Plan. Officers noted changes were summarised in the submitted report. The Mayor highlighted the focus on health outcomes and noted that work was ongoing alongside the Inclusivity Champion to address health inequality.

Members questioned if the equality impact assessment could incorporate the voice of children into the decision-making process. Officers offered to take the suggestion into consideration.

Members questioned how the outcomes would be measured, and how potential inadvertent negative health outcomes would be avoided. The Mayor responded that the targets to measure against were detailed in the West Yorkshire plan and that the Combined Authority would be guided by the data in decision making, but members were encouraged to raise any concerns they had. The Mayor added that further devolution would allow for greater autonomy regarding how the management of health funding and would result in further positive outcomes.

Resolved: That the revisions to the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy be approved.

26. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

Members considered a report to provide an update of the progress made on implementing the West Yorkshire UKSPF Local Investment Plans, including Core UKSPF, Multiply and the new Rural England Prosperity Fund, and to approve officers to develop the Invitation to Bid and agree the full Invitation to Bid.

The Mayor noted the funding included the Multiply programme and had so far improved the skills of more than 2,000 learners across the region. The Mayor emphasised the aim to further develop innovative solutions towards the improvement of skills, and expressed frustration that delays in receiving the funding had given less time to deliver the project and the unspent funding had to be returned to the government. The Mayor raised concerns that the funding was difficult to access for smaller organisations, and challenged officers to address the issue so more learners could benefit overall.

Officers confirmed that approximately 60% of the £68 million of funding had been allocated. The bidding process for organisations to access approximately £12 million for the Pillar 2 'Business Support' element had been run and the Local Partnership Group, made up of councillors and regional stakeholders, would consider the bids before returning to the Combined Authority for approval in September. For the Pillar 3 'People and Skills' element, it had been agreed to allocate £14 million, with the government requirement that it could only be allocated for one year which had created a challenge to identify suitable providers who could deliver within that period. Officers confirmed Employment and Skills Committee had discussed the funding, which was aligned with the investment strategy for delivery in conjunction with the five partner councils. Three additional programmes would be delivered with external partners, comprising of the Work and Health Programme, the Community Grant Programme, and the Youth Unemployment Programme. Officers noted funding had been allocated to each of the districts for hyper-local programmes, and there were further opportunities for small organisations to access funding. Officers explained that a grant provider would manage the funding, but the details had not yet been agreed waiting feedback from regional stakeholders

The Mayor queried how organisations would be informed of the funding opportunities, officers responded that a website was under development, and the Combined Authority had a list of over 1,000 businesses who could be contacted directly, with each district also having similar contact lists. The Mayor suggested the organisations that had been involved with the delivery of the Mayor's Cost Of Living Emergency Fund should be involved as well as the Combined Authority's Inclusivity Champion.

Members welcomed the funding and questioned what support would be provided for rural areas given the relative difficulty of access to urban centres. Officers responded the delivery in rural areas would be built into the bid invitation, the Mayor added that the focus on improved transport links for rural areas would improve the access to training and education.

Members questioned which rural partners were being engaged with and if

there were any details that could be shared with schools and communities, officers noted the organisations included the National Farmers Union and the Yorkshire Food and Farming Rural Network, but a more complete list could be provided to members. Officers responded that there was difficulty engaging with schools due to the timing of receipt of the funding in relation to the school year. The Mayor noted that engaging with parents was key to building relationships, and if they attended one class, they would be more likely to attend more and increase their skills further. Members requested a report detailing the approved rural projects following delivery.

Members expressed concerns about the delivery of projects in Calderdale where the funding delays had caused some projects to be shut down early. Members noted there was limited capacity for community organisations to deliver projects, the Mayor responded that deeper devolution would be able to address the capacity issues. The Mayor thanked the members of the Local Partnership Group for their diligent work considering bids in relation to UKSPF projects.

Resolved:

That the progress made on implementing the West Yorkshire UKSPF Local Investment Plans be noted.

That the recommendations made by the West Yorkshire UKSPF Local Partnership Group on its 31st July 2023 meeting be noted and approved, which are:

- The LPG endorsed the design of the Calls including the proposed funding envelopes and key policy areas for intervention as set out above, providing their feedback and advice is taken in to account as the Invitation to Bid is finalised.

The funding envelopes and priority areas for the three Pillar 3 People and Skills open calls for projects via an invitation to bid be approved, and the Chief Executive be authorised to agree, prior to publication, the full Invitation to Bid documentation in consultation with the Mayor and the Chair of the Employment and Skills Committee given the launch timescales.

27. Appointment of Combined Authority Returning Officer

Members considered a report to agree to appoint Tom Riordan, the Leeds City Council Chief Executive and Local Returning Officer, as the Combined Authority Returning Officer (CARO) for the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Mayoral election, due to take place on Thursday 2 May 2024. The report also noted the intention that Ben Still, Chief Executive of the Combined Authority would be appointed as a deputy CARO.

The Mayor noted the arrangements would mirror the arrangements of the election held in 2021.

Resolved:

That Tom Riordan, Leeds City Council Chief Executive and Local Returning

Officer, be appointed as the Combined Authority Returning Officer (CARO) in respect of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Mayoral election, due to take place on Thursday 2 May 2024.

The intention that Ben Still, Chief Executive of the Combined Authority will be appointed as a deputy CARO be noted.

28. Project Approvals

(a) Investment Priority 3: Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure

Members considered two schemes for progression through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Assurance Framework.

Employment Land Accelerator Fund

Officers explained the scheme would support the creation of a pipeline of potential employment sites to create opportunities for future investments. Locations would be identified alongside the partner councils and external consultants to determine the feasibility and future needs of each location. The Place, Regeneration, and Housing Committee had also contributed to the development of criteria for each site.

Members queried how the value for money for each site would be determined. Officers responded that the estimation could vary but would be based on the future evaluations of the sites and the potential jobs that could be created as a result. Members questioned when updates would be brought to the members for review, officers responded that evaluations are conducted as a part of the assurance process and members could challenge each scheme at the appropriate decision point. Officers added a similar housing project was currently under evaluation before returning for review by the Combined Authority at a future meeting.

Members queried if the criteria for the identification of sites included their potential, or if the potential was considered after land was identified and suggested that links to transport would be beneficial to encourage public transport and active travel to access the sites. Members also asked if local communities would be able to provide input for the businesses that would occupy the site. Officers responded that the Place, Regeneration, and Housing Committee considered the transport links during the development of the criteria, and there was a focus on sites that were already close to existing or developing mass transit corridors. The Mayor noted that the Backstage Academy was already providing opportunities for young people and similar businesses would further improve the opportunities in any location.

Langthwaite Enterprise Zone – Wakefield

Officers explained the site was already owned by the Combined Authority, and additional funding would allow for the purchase of

adjoining land for the development of an access road and further development of the site.

Resolved:

With respect to Employment Land Accelerator Fund the Combined Authority approved that:

- i. The Employment Land Accelerator Fund scheme proceed through decision point 2 to 4 (business justification) and work commence on activity 5 (delivery).
- ii. Approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £2,000,000. The total scheme value is £2,000,000.
- iii. Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route and tolerances outlined in the submitted report. Where required, any future committee level approvals be delegated to the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee.

With respect to Enterprise Zone Langthwaite Business Park Extension the Combined Authority approved that:

- i. The Enterprise Zone Langthwaite Business Park Extension scheme proceed through decision point 4 (FBC) and work commences on activity 5 (Delivery), subject to the conditions set by the Programme Appraisal Team.
- ii. Subject to the conditions set by the Programme Appraisal Team, approval of £11,626,000 be given, taking the total approval to £12,678,000. The total scheme value is £12,678,000.
- iii. Approval of £350,000 development costs, from the total approval, taking the approval to date to £1,402,000.
- iv. Approval be granted for the purchase of additional land adjacent to Onward Way for provision of the access road.
- v. Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route and tolerances outlined in the submitted report. Where required, any future committee level approvals be delegated to the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee.

(b) Investment Priority 5: Delivering Sustainable, Inclusive and Affordable Transport

Members considered five schemes for progression through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Assurance Framework.

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Scheme (LEVI)

Officers explained that the Combined Authority had been awarded a total of £17 million of government funding from three different funding pots, for a pilot scheme, a second phase, and additional capacity funding. The scheme would deliver publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points for homes without access to off-street parking. Officers noted that additional private sector funding was being sought to increase the total available funding, which would be distributed between the Combined Authority and the partner councils for local delivery. The Mayor noted that there were additional opportunities to set up training and new jobs regarding the installation and maintenance of charging points which would deliver further value from the scheme.

Members queried what metrics would be measured to identify success and noted that many households could not afford an electric vehicle even with access to new charging points. The Mayor noted that car clubs were considered within the plans to encourage more electric vehicle usage. Officers added that the relative affluence of communities was taken into consideration, but the object of the scheme was not to incentivise the purchase of a vehicle, but to deliver where chargers were not currently available. The Mayor added that the government had introduced a ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles from 2030 and the scheme would help to support communities towards that eventuality.

Members questioned if there was an estimate of the number of homes with no off-street parking, and if a range of solutions would be considered. The Mayor noted the delivery would be led by the available data to ensure value from the scheme, officers added that the local authority partners would have input into the locations of delivery and the funding would contribute towards the identification of solutions.

Members questioned how the scheme would fit with the published strategies of the Combined Authority. Officers responded that the Local Transport Plan was under revision, and further guidance would be released by the government regarding electric vehicles and parking. Officers added the scheme was at the strategic outline business case stage and further detail would be available once more individual schemes began development.

Members suggested the private sector would favour installation in areas with more potential customers, and faster delivery in higher demand areas would drive down the cost of future installations. Officers noted that the number of required charging points had not yet been calculated, but more information could be circulated to members.

CRSTS Highways Asset Management and Enhancement Programme and Off Highway Walking and Cycling Network

Officers explained that the scheme would deliver the second and third year of a five-year programme of highway and carriageway improvements. Officers noted it was proposed to enter into agreements

with each partner authority to deliver the improvements. Members questioned if pavement parking was taken into consideration and if the Combined Authority had a position on the outlaw of pavement parking. Officers responded that the interventions would be to create a better environment along targeted corridors and would not directly address the issue, however the issue would be targeted in new scheme designs. Officers added that the government had recently run a consultation on pavement parking and the outcome was being awaited.

Members suggested that local authorities were already behind in the delivery of highway improvements and questioned if there was enough capacity to deliver new improvements. Officers responded that they understood there were no issues with delivery, and maintenance and delivery of new schemes were delivered by separate teams.

Safer Roads

Officers noted the scheme would provide a range of road safety interventions in line with the 'Vision Zero' action plan to reduce injury and death on the roads. The scheme would initially identify locations for delivery and develop in the second and third years.

Members questioned if preventative measures could be taken in other areas as well as those that had been identified as dangerous. Members noted that the most dangerous areas should be targeted as a priority, and officers added that local officers would help to identify such areas.

Active Travel Fund 3 – A660 Otley Road

Officers explained the scheme would deliver interventions along the A660 to provide a sustainable travel corridor, including 2.5 kilometres of segregated cycleway on each side of the carriageway. The scheme would seek to halve the number of injuries over a five-year period and encourage active travel and bus use.

Members questioned the methodology used to identify the improvements and raised concerns about the mingling of cycles and pedestrians, especially if e-bikes became more common. Officers responded there were strict appraisal criteria used to make the case, the model used was pre-pandemic and the situation had changed in the meantime, however it would be preferable to act rather than waiting for updated guidance by which time inflation or other factors may affect delivery. Officers noted the impact of the changes on bus travel were not considered to be significant. Officers added that Active Travel England had provided engineering standards and advice, the scheme had met their criteria but there was still much to learn regarding the appraisal of schemes.

Members asked if a consultation had been undertaken, officers noted there had been one conducted by Leeds City Council, members offered to provide the outcome.

Zero Emissions Bus Regional Area

Officers noted the scheme would introduce 111 zero-emission buses, and the change request would add 25 more up to a total of 136 from March 2024. Officers explained the scheme would remove 50 tonnes of nitrogen oxides and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 7,000 tonnes per year. Older diesel buses would be replaced, and the government would pay the operator for the difference in cost. The Combined Authority would work with First Group to introduce the buses via the Bramley depot.

Resolved:

With respect to Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Programme the Combined Authority approved that:

- i. The Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Programme proceed through decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and work commence on individual project business cases as outlined in the submitted report.
- ii. An indicative approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £17,142,000. The total programme value is between £20,642,000 and £32,642,000, dependent on leveraged private sector contributions.
- iii. Subject to the conditions set by the Programme Appraisal Team, approval to funding of £1,316,000 to progress the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capability Fund scheme to Activity 5 (Delivery). The total scheme costs are £1,316,000.
- iv. Indicative approval to funding of £1,500,000 for the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Phase 1 Pilot scheme be given and work commence on Activity 4 (full business case). The total scheme costs are £3,000,000.
- v. Indicative approval to funding of £14,326,000 for the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Phase 2 scheme be given and work commence on Activity 3 (outline business case). The total scheme costs are £16,326,000.
- vi. The following development costs be approved:
 - a. £354,953 for the Combined Authority for the LEVI Capability scheme
 - b. £ 961,047 for the five West Yorkshire partner local authorities for the LEVI Capability scheme
 - c. £120,000 for the Combined Authority for the Phase 1 LEVI Pilot scheme and the Phase 2 LEVI scheme
- vii. The Combined Authority enter into a funding agreement for the amounts set out below with each of the five partner councils for the capability fund:

- City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council for expenditure of up to £184,480.
 - Calderdale Council for expenditure of up to £195,000.
 - Kirklees Council for expenditure of up to £188,631.
 - Leeds City Council for expenditure of up to £197,936.
 - Wakefield Council for expenditure of up to £195,000.
- viii. Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report and where required, any change requests be delegated to the transport committee. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the submitted report.

With respect to CRSTS Highways Asset Management and Enhancement Programme and Off Highway Walking and Cycling Network the Combined Authority approved that:

- i. The CRSTS Highways Asset Management and Enhancement Programme for the 2023/24 financial year (year 2) proceed through decision point 2 to 4 (strategic outline case) and delivery continue to end of 2023/24, and work commence on the strategic outline case for future years.
- ii. The CRSTS Off Highway Walking and Cycling Network Programme for the 2023/24 financial year (year 2) proceed through decision point 2 to 4 (strategic outline case) and delivery continue to end of 2023/24, and work commence on the strategic outline case for future years.
- iii. The Department for Transport's Pothole Fund proceed through decision point 2 to 4 (strategic outline case) and into delivery.
- iv. An indicative approval be given to the total £248,000,000 for CRSTS Highways Asset Management CRSTS Highways Asset Management and Enhancement programme and £3,440,000 for the Off Highway Walking and Cycling network programme.
- v. Approval to an additional £35,768,466 of development and delivery costs for quarters 2, 3 and 4 of the CRSTS Highways Asset Management and Enhancement programme (year 2) be given to provide a total allocation of £48,168,466 for the 2023/24 financial year.
- vi. Approval to an additional £516,000 of development and delivery costs for quarters 2,3 and 4 of the CRSTS Off Highway Walking and Cycling network programme (year 2) be given to provide a total allocation of £688,000 for the 2023/24 financial year.
- vii. Approval to the £6,484,800 additional funding awarded from the Department for Transport's Pothole Fund to fund interventions to maintain the highway network prioritised through the CRSTS

programme.

- viii. The Combined Authority enter into addendums to the existing funding agreement(s) with partner councils for expenditure of the apportioned £35,768,466 for CRSTS Highways Asset Management and Enhancement programme (year 2), £516,000 for the CRSTS Off Highway Walking and Cycling Network programme (year 2) for the 2023/24 financial year, and £6,484,800 for the Pothole Fund up to the amounts below:
 - Expenditure of up to £20,297,416 with Bradford Council
 - Expenditure of up to £13,810,080 with Calderdale Council
 - Expenditure of up to £21,839,627 with Kirklees Council
 - Expenditure of up to £33,203,445 with Leeds Council
 - Expenditure of up to £16,478,698 with Wakefield Council
- ix. Delegations to the Director of Transport Policy and Delivery to amend allocated funding amounts released as part of this decision as required.
- x. Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report and where required, any change requests be delegated to the Transport Committee. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the submitted report.

The Combined Authority approved that subject to the conditions set by the Programme Appraisal Team that:

- i. The CRSTS Highways Asset Management and Enhancement Programme for the 2024/25 financial year (year 3) proceed through decision point 2 to 4 (strategic outline case) and delivery continue to end of 2024/25.
- ii. The CRSTS Off Highway Walking and Cycling Network Programme for the 2024/25 financial year (year 3) proceed through decision point 2 to 4 (strategic outline case) and delivery continue to end of 2024/25.
- iii. Approval to an additional £52,736,931 for development and delivery costs for the CRSTS Asset Management and Enhancement programme (year 3) be given to provide a total allocation of £52,736,931 for the 2024/25 financial year.
- iv. Approval to an additional £688,000 for development and delivery costs for the CRSTS Off Highway Walking and Cycling network programme (year 3) be given to provide a total allocation of £688,000 for the 2024/25 financial year.
- v. The Combined Authority enter into addendums to the existing funding agreement(s) with partner councils for expenditure of the apportioned £52,736,931 for CRSTS Asset Management and Enhancement programme (year 3) and £688,000 for CRSTS Off

Highway Walking and Cycling Network programme for the 2024/25 financial year (year 3), up to the amounts below:

- Expenditure of up to £32,607,832 with Bradford Council
 - Expenditure of up to £19,954,032 with Calderdale Council
 - Expenditure of up to £31,866,203 with Kirklees Council
 - Expenditure of up to £50,036,552 with Leeds Council
 - Expenditure of up to £24,589,578 with Wakefield Council
- vi. Delegations to the Director of Transport Policy and Delivery to amend allocated funding amounts released as part of this decision as required.
- vii. Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report and where required, any change requests be delegated to the Transport Committee. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the submitted report.

With respect to CRSTS Safer Roads Programme the Combined Authority approved that:

- i. The CRSTS Safer Roads Programme proceed through Decision Point 2 and 4, and delivery continues until the end of 2023/24, and work commence on the development of the strategic outline case for Year 3.
- ii. An indicative approval to the total CRSTS Safer Roads programme value of £25,000,000 be given.
- iii. Approval to an additional £4,397,000 of development and delivery costs for quarters 2, 3 and 4 for the CRSTS Safer Roads programme (Year 2) be given to provide a total allocation of £5,647,000 for the 2023/24 financial year. The total allocation up to the end of Year 2 is £10,647,000.
- iv. The Combined Authority enter into addendums to the existing funding agreements with the five partner councils for expenditure of the apportioned £5,647,000 for the 2023/24 financial year, up to the amounts shown below:
- City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council for expenditure of up to £1,155,000
 - Calderdale Council for expenditure of up to £440,000
 - Kirklees Council for expenditure of up to £925,000
 - Leeds City Council for expenditure of up to £2,377,000
 - Wakefield Council for expenditure of up to £750,000
- v. Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report and where required, any change requests be delegated to the Transport Committee. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the submitted report.

With respect to Active Travel Fund 3 - A660 Otley Road the Combined Authority approved that:

- i. The Active Travel Fund - Tranche 3: A660 Otley Road scheme proceed through FBC (Decision Point 4) to Activity 5 (Delivery).
- ii. Approval to the delivery costs of up to £10,005,000 be given, taking the total approval to £10,475,000. The total scheme cost is £10,475,000, which is to be fully funded by the Combined Authority.
- iii. The Combined Authority enter into an addendum to the existing funding agreement with Leeds City Council for expenditure of up to £10,475,000.
- iv. Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route and tolerances outlined in the submitted report. Where required, any future committee level approvals be delegated to the Transport Committee.

With respect to Zero Emission Bus Regional Area the Combined Authority approved that:

- i. The change request for the Zero Emission Bus Regional Area scheme to increase the funding approval by £5,744,069, taking the total contribution to £30,309,240, be approved. The total scheme value is £69,978,646.
- ii. The Combined Authority enter into an Addendum to the existing Grant Funding Agreement with First Bus for expenditure of up to £12,635,472 from the DfT Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) fund.
- iii. Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report and where required, any change requests be delegated to the Transport committee. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the submitted report.

(c) Investment Priority 6: Culture and Creative Industries, Sport and Physical Activities

Members considered two schemes for progression through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Assurance Framework.

The Mayor noted the schemes would feeds into the Creative New Deal and provide training and support for individuals to access creative industries. The Mayor noted almost 48,000 jobs in the creative industries were advertised in West Yorkshire in the preceding year, which was a 17% increase compared to the year before and greater than the national average. The Mayor added that investment in well-paid jobs would increase the available talent and innovation, and

support growth across the sector.

Bradford City of Culture 2025

Officers explained the funding would contribute to the development of the business case, which would further confirm the future funding needs. Delivery would be led by the City of Bradford and would help to build capacity in charitable and community organisations ahead of the year of culture. The Mayor noted Bradford had also successfully applied for funding from the Department for Culture, Media & Sport and the Heritage Fund.

Members queried how it could be ensured that local talent would be developed in favour of those travelling from outside of West Yorkshire. The Mayor noted that there had already been many opportunities created, and through assessment of the workforce it could be seen over several years that individuals would progress to more senior roles with the experience they had gained. Officers added that as projects develop there would be better estimations of where people had come from. Members noted that similar projects had long-lasting impacts beyond the culmination of the scheme and cited the arrival of Channel 4 in Leeds which had provided significant employment for local people.

Members questioned who would decide how the funding was spent. Officers confirmed the initial funding would be to support capacity for small organisations, but future funding needs would be for Bradford to determine.

You Can Make it Here – Skills and Business Support for Culture

Officers explained the scheme would focus on multiple projects, including development of skills and support, funding for accessibility, and support for freelancers and micro businesses. Some projects had already achieved success, and officers expressed the aim to develop further knowledge to improve future schemes. The Mayor noted that freelancers had been particularly affected throughout the pandemic and did not always have broad networks, and similar organisations to Brudenell would provide benefit. The Mayor added the Screen Diversity Programme had given positive outcomes for diversity in culture and could be expanded to writers as well as performers.

Resolved:

With respect to Bradford City of Culture 2025 the Combined Authority approved that:

- i. The Bradford City of Culture 2025 scheme proceed through decision point 1 (strategic assessment) and work commence on the business case.
- ii. Approval be given to the Combined Authority's contribution of £300,000.

- iii. The Combined Authority enter into a funding agreement with Bradford Council for expenditure of up to £300,000.

With respect to You Can Make it Here – Creative Industries Skills and Business Support the Combined Authority approved that:

- i. The You Can Make it Here – Creative Industries Skills and Business Support scheme proceed through decision point 2 to 4 (business justification) and work commence on activity 5 (delivery).
- ii. Approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £1,734,750 be given. The total scheme value is £1,734,750.
- iii. Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report. This would be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the submitted report. Where required, any future committee level approvals be delegated to the Culture, Heritage, and Sport Committee.

29. Governance Arrangements

Members considered a report to provide the Combined Authority with an update on the process to seek new private sector members for the LEP Board.

The Mayor noted that process of integration of the LEP and Combined Authority was ongoing, and the aim was to maintain a strong public and private sector partnership. The Mayor informed members that the recruitment campaign had been undertaken, and appointments made which reflected the diversity of the region. Officers added the delegations for recruitment were agreed at the previous LEP meeting and the appointments had been agreed with the individuals. With the new members the LEP Board would have a full complement of members. Officers confirmed the appointment of the Mayor's business advisor would continue through the summer.

The new appointments made were:

- Aaron Holt - Holdson Ltd, based in Kirklees
- Annette Joseph MBE - Diverse & Equal, based in Leeds
- Jane Atkinson CBE - Enfinium UK Ltd, based in Wakefield
- Lisa Johnson - Starship Technologies, based in Leeds
- Natalie Sykes - James Wilby Ltd, based in Wakefield
- And Sherin Mathews - AI Tech Ltd, based in Leeds

Existing members of the board were as follows:

- Fara Butt
- Nicky Chance-Thompson
- Asma Iqbal

Resolved: That the update provided at the meeting on the process to seek new private sector members for the LEP Board be noted.

30. Minutes for Information

Resolved: That the minutes and notes of the Combined Authority's committees and panels be noted.