

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE, RESOURCES, AND CORPORATE COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 4 AUGUST 2021 AT CITY EXCHANGE, 11
ALBION ST, LEEDS LS1 5ES**

Present:

Mayor Tracy Brabin (Chair)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Councillor James Lewis	Leeds City Council
Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Council
Councillor Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Council
Councillor Jane Scullion (Substitute)	Calderdale Council
Mark Roberts (Substitute)	LEP Board

In attendance:

Ben Still	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Angela Taylor	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Ben Kearns	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Councillor Swift, Councillor Jeffery, and Sir Roger Marsh.

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

There were no items that required the exemption of the press and public.

4. Governance Arrangements

Members considered a report which set out the governance arrangements for the Finance, Resources and Corporate Committee.

Members noted the wide ranging aspect of the terms of reference which would enable the committee to consider urgent matters or those which did not align with other committees.

Members also discussed designating an inclusivity champion to ensure that

inclusive growth commitments were met and identify opportunities to go further on the inclusivity agenda. The Committee recognised their shared commitment to inclusivity and nominated Cllr Pandor as the inclusivity champion on the committee.

Resolved:

- (i) That the governance arrangements approved by the Combined Authority at the Annual Meeting on 24 June 2021 be noted.
- (ii) That the proposed areas of work be noted.
- (iii) That Councillor Pandor be approved as the inclusivity champion on the committee.

5. Financial Performance Report

Members considered a report which set out the 2020/21 final outturn and the 2021/22 financial position as of 30 June 2021.

Members noted the challenges in achieving a balanced budget in 2020/21 with action taken to manage the impact of the pandemic and mitigate risks. There had been a timing difference in the costs of the election with more costs than expected falling in the 2021/22 year. Much of the surplus from the 2020/21 budget would be ear-marked to cover the election costs.

The Capital programme expenditure budget position was attached at appendix 2 and a fuller report on the 2021/22 capital position to date would be brought to the next meeting.

The 2021/22 budget would continue to be monitored and a report would be brought to each meeting of the committee.

Members had the following questions and comments:

- That there was a potential opportunity to unlock or fast-track funding around key policy areas such as business recovery and the climate emergency. It was noted that pipeline development funding had been allocated for these priorities and the key challenge was bringing these schemes forward and finding capacity for committees to allocate funding.
- Bus funding and concessionary travel were identified as posing a significant challenge for the 2021/22 budget.
- That it would be useful to have a concise summary or dashboard of the capital funding programmes, with spending deadlines and progress of spend to better enable oversight.

Resolved: That the financial position be noted.

6. Corporate Plan, Corporate Performance and Business Planning

Members considered a report which provided an update on business planning, corporate performance, and the corporate plan for 2021/22.

Business plans for each directorate as well as the corporate plan had been reassessed to ensure the mayoral pledges and priorities were reflected. A public facing Corporate Plan for 2021/22 would also be produced and would set out the key priorities of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and LEP in an accessible and transparent way for the public

Members noted that Key Performance Indicators for the 2021/22 year would be brought quarterly to the committee and the previous year's KPIs were included in the submitted report.

Members had the following questions and comments:

- That HS2 and NPR was one of corporate performance 2020/21 year end results flagged in red and members felt that it was vital that this was improved on in the upcoming year.
- Members discussed the possibility to design targets for the region outside of the Combined Authority's corporate targets. Metrics discussed included increasing income levels, decreasing unemployment, inclusive growth targets possibly set by place.
- It was recognised that the Combined Authority was one of several partners involved in achieving these regional targets which could be included but not necessarily as a key performance indicator.
- That it was vital for partner council officers to be included in discussions around KPIs as the achievement of them will require action from both the Combined Authority and partners.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

7. Budget Planning Overview

Members considered a report which provided a budget planning overview.

It was noted that the development of next year's budget would be impacted by several strategic factors where there remains significant uncertainty.

Members noted the timetable to progress the budget work as well as the plans to consult partner councils and the wider public.

Members made the following comments:

- Members discussed the possibility of forming a working group to consider the substantive moving parts playing into the 2022/23 budget. It was also felt that there should be a forum to examine the granular details of schemes around delivery and efficiencies. A proposition would be worked up and brought back to the next meeting of the committee.
- It would be useful to meet with the directors of finance from each local authorities to ensure joined up thinking and best value for money.
- Members suggested taking aspects of the budget and examining them in more detail at Committee or via a working group could be a good

approach. The transport levy was suggested as a topic of interest.

- That business engagement, through the LEP, along with public engagement would be essential.