

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON FRIDAY, 28 APRIL 2017 AT COMMITTEE ROOM A, WELLINGTON
HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS**

Present:

Councillor Robert Light (Chair)	Kirklees Council
Councillor Stephen Baines	Calderdale Council
Councillor James Baker	Calderdale Council
Councillor Ian Cuthbertson	City of York Council
Councillor Michael Ellis	Bradford Council
Councillor Peter Harrand	Leeds City Council
Councillor Fozia Shaheen	Bradford Council

In attendance:

Councillor Peter Box	Chair, WYCA (to minute 64)
Ben Still	WYCA
Caroline Allen	WYCA
James Flanagan	WYCA
Ruth Chaplin	WYCA

60. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Boyce, J Brooks, D Foster, K Groves, M Isherwood, A Manifold, N Mohammed, J Pryor and B Rhodes

61. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ellis declared an interest as he is a member of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and Airedale Drainage Commission.

62. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

63. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 March 2017

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2017 be approved and signed by the Chair.

64. Devolution Update

The Chair welcomed Councillor Peter Box to the meeting and he provided members with an overview of the progress and challenges in securing an ambitious, economically-led mayoral devolution deal for Leeds City Region.

Councillor Box outlined the various policy options for a mayoral devolution deal which had been considered by WYCA on 2 February 2017. WYCA had requested a formal response from Government on the proposal for a Leeds City Region deal which was submitted to HM Treasury in September 2015, with a view to agreeing a way forward. Councillor Box advised members of correspondence with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and of a subsequent meeting held with Yorkshire's Leaders on 9 March 2017. The Secretary of State had requested that options be put to central government based on the guiding principles outlined in his letter, followed by an early meeting with a view to concluding a deal as soon as possible this year. It was acknowledged that the announcement of the General Election on 8 June 2017 would impact on this but Councillor Box stressed that a meeting would be sought with the Secretary of State at the earliest opportunity.

Councillor Box commented that Leeds City Region had secured the biggest Growth Deal in the country, established the £1bn West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund and agreed a non-mayoral devolution deal. However it was recognised that without a mayoral deal the future funding and delivery of local growth programmes and investments could become more problematic and the areas which had secured deals with directly elected 'metro' Mayors would benefit from enhanced funding opportunities and devolved and delegated decision making.

Members discussed the geographic footprint proposals and Councillor Box confirmed he would be prepared to support a mayoral deal for the City Region based on the Government's formal agreement to the 'asks' submitted to HM Treasury in September 2015 and that WYCA would consider supporting a deal based on a bigger geography but subject to making a robust business and economic case. Councillor Box stressed that Government had to be fair and even-handed in its approach to devolution. For example in explaining why a type of deal agreed to in one area could not be permitted in another.

Councillor Box was thanked for attending the meeting and for the informative discussion. The Committee would continue to be kept informed of any further developments.

Resolved: That the current progress in respect of securing a devolution deal for the Leeds City Region be noted.

65. Governance Arrangements

The Committee considered a report which sought members' views on the governance arrangements which had been considered and approved by WYCA at its meeting held on 6 April 2017.

Members welcomed the proposals outlined in the report which was attached at Appendix A. It was proposed to integrate LEP Panels into WYCA's decision making structure with the first cycle of new advisory committees to commence in September. The LEP Board would be asked to agree the revised committee arrangements including a proposal to appoint 2 non-voting private sector representatives to the Transport Committee at their next meeting.

It was noted that the Committee had previously discussed the changes to governance arrangements required by Order of the Secretary of State in respect of Overview & Scrutiny arrangements and these would take effect from 8 May 2017. Members highlighted the changes which affected the quorum for the Committee and the need to ensure that two thirds of the membership would need to be in attendance at future meetings. They asked that this be brought to the attention of the District Council Leaders and Chief Whips of all their political parties before their Annual Meetings.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee endorse the proposals outlined in the report to be considered by the LEP Board and WYCA.
- (ii) That the forthcoming changes to the quorum of the Committee be brought to the attention of the District Council Leaders and Chief Whips of all their political parties.

66. Items for Feedback to WYCA

It was requested that WYCA be advised that the Committee welcomed the proposals in respect of the revised governance arrangements.