

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 22 JUNE 2023 AT COMMITTEE ROOM 1,  
WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS**

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**Present:**

|                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mayor Tracy Brabin (Chair)   | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe | Bradford Council                  |
| Councillor Jane Scullion     | Calderdale Council                |
| Councillor Shabir Pandor     | Kirklees Council                  |
| Councillor James Lewis       | Leeds City Council                |
| Councillor Denise Jeffery    | Wakefield Council                 |
| Councillor Claire Douglas    | City of York Council              |
| Councillor Rebecca Poulsen   | Bradford Council                  |
| Councillor Alan Lamb         | Leeds City Council                |
| Councillor Sue Holdsworth    | Calderdale Council                |
| Mark Roberts                 | LEP Board Representative          |

**In attendance:**

|                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ben Still         | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Alan Reiss        | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Simon Warburton   | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Luke Albanese     | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Melanie Corcoran  | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Liz Hunter        | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Angela Taylor     | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Philip Witcherley | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Caroline Allen    | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Ian Parr          | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |

**1. Membership of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority**

The Combined Authority considered a report from the Head of Legal and Governance in respect of the appointment of Combined Authority members and substitute members to the Combined Authority; the granting of voting rights to the member of the Combined Authority appointed by the City of York Council and to the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Member “the LEP Member”); and the position regarding the future appointment of the LEP Member to the Combined Authority.

The Mayor welcomed Cllr Jane Scullion as the appointed member for Calderdale Council, following her assumption of the role of Leader of

Calderdale Council. The Mayor also welcomed Cllr Claire Douglas, the new Leader of the City of York Council, and Cllr Alan Lamb, political balance member from Leeds City Council.

The Mayor welcomed Fatima Khan Shah, who was appointed as the Inclusivity Champion for the Combined Authority and would support the Combined Authority in tackling issues concerning diversity and inequality.

A round of introductions took place for the benefit of new members and observers.

**Resolved:**

- (a) That:-
- the position of Mayor as Chair of the Combined Authority by virtue of that office,
  - the ongoing appointment of the Deputy Mayor by the Mayor,
  - the appointment of Constituent Combined Authority Members and their Substitutes by the Constituent Councils, and
  - the appointment of the Non-Constituent Council Member and Substitute by York City Council, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be noted.
- (b) That the LEP Member of the Combined Authority and the Substitute LEP Member would be appointed to the Combined Authority in due course be noted, and the proposal that to ensure LEP Board private sector representation on the Combined Authority at its next meeting on 27 July, a nominated LEP Member may attend to provide representation be agreed.
- (c) That the Non-Constituent Council Combined Authority Member may exercise one vote at any Combined Authority meeting (including any decision-making committee or sub-committee to which the Non-Constituent Council Combined Authority Member is appointed) only in respect of any decision which gives rise to a direct and significant financial liability for the Non-Constituent Council.
- (d) That the Substitute Non-Constituent Council Combined Authority Member may exercise the voting rights granted to the Non-Constituent Council Combined Authority Member, when acting in the absence of the Non-Constituent Council Member.
- (e) That the LEP Member, once appointed, may vote at any meeting of the Combined Authority (including any committee or sub-committee to which the LEP Member is appointed) on any decision, subject to the following exceptions:
- decision-making in relation to budget and levy setting; and
  - the adoption of any implementation plans appended to the Local Transport Plan which relate specifically to the Combined Authority's area (that is, West Yorkshire).

- (f) That the Substitute LEP Member (once appointed) may exercise the voting rights granted to the LEP Member, when acting in the absence of the LEP Member.

## 2. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

The Mayor thanked Mark Roberts for his leadership as Interim Chair of the LEP, and for his contributions to the LEP as well as to the Combined Authority. The Mayor noted that the recruitment process for a permanent LEP Chair had already begun and a candidate would be appointed in due course.

## 3. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

## 4. Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

No items were identified as exempt from the press and public.

## 5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 25 May 2023

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 25 May 2023 be approved and signed by the Chair.

## 6. Mayor's Update

The Mayor highlighted some of the achievements made by the Combined Authority over the previous year.

The Mayor's Fares Scheme which lowered bus fares for passengers throughout the region, a model which was subsequently utilised by the government for a similar national scheme. TransPennine Express had also been placed under the control of the operator of last resort which should improve the reliability of the service.

The Mayor embarked on a trade mission to India, securing over 1,000 jobs for the region. More than 43,000 adults enrolled onto training through the Adult Education Budget, and 2,000 more learners in low-paid jobs had accessed training course.

A new team was created to coordinate the mass transit programme, and a new partnership was agreed with Homes England which would deliver thousands of new homes over the coming years.

Investments have been made in culture and the creative industries, working on a northern cultural corridor with the Chair of the Royal Society. The WOW Barn achieved success by inspiring women into joining the construction industry.

The Mayor noted the challenges faced by the residents of West Yorkshire due to the issue of rising inflation, which has forced many families to rely on food banks and caused more children to grow up in poverty. The Mayor noted that poorer households were hit the hardest, and that the Cost of Living Fund set up by the Combined Authority had been vital in supporting local authorities to reach approximately 6,500 additional households. The Energy Price Emergency Grant had also supported businesses through the challenges of rising energy prices.

The Mayor noted there was more work to be completed in the upcoming year, and the West Yorkshire Plan had recently been published setting out the five missions to achieve before 2040. The Mayor noted that the decisions made by the Combined Authority over the coming year would help pave the way towards a more prosperous and inclusive region that worked for all.

## **7. Committee Arrangements and Appointments**

The Combined Authority considered a report from the Head of Legal and Governance in respect of committee arrangements and appointments.

The Mayor noted that since publication of the agenda papers, the following outstanding nominations had been confirmed:

- Corporate Scrutiny Committee – Cllrs Jane Dowson and Paul Wray
- Economy Scrutiny Committee – Cllr Gohar Almass
- Transport/Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee – Cllrs Kayleigh Brookes and Izaak Wilson

The Mayor noted that Cllr Jane Dowson was proposed as the Deputy Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee. Officers added that the recruitment of LEP Board members was ongoing, and appointments would be made when recruitment had concluded.

### **Resolved:**

**(a)** That, in relation to appointment of committees –

(i) That the following statutory committees be appointed on the terms of reference set out in the relevant Appendix attached to the submitted report:

- Governance and Audit Committee (Appendix 1)
- Economy Scrutiny Committee (Appendix 2)
- Transport/Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee (Appendix 3)
- Corporate Scrutiny Committee, Terms of Reference (Appendix 4)

(ii) That the following decision-making committees be appointed, on the terms of reference set out in the relevant Appendix attached to the submitted report:

- Business, Economy and Innovation Committee (Appendix 5)
  - Climate, Energy and Environment Committee (Appendix 6)
  - Culture, Heritage, and Sport Committee (Appendix 7)
  - Employment and Skills Committee (Appendix 8)
  - Finance, Resources and Corporate Committee (Appendix 9)
  - Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee (Appendix 10)
  - Transport Committee (Appendix 11)
- (iii) That the Joint Independent Audit Committee be appointed, and that the arrangements for the committee were matters for the Mayor and the Chief Constable for West Yorkshire be noted.
- (b)** That, in relation to the appointment of committee members –
- (i) That the Combined Authority appoints its Members to the Governance and Audit Committee, as set out in Appendix 1 of the submitted report, and Joanna Wardman and Debbie Simpson be appointed as Independent Members of the Governance and Audit Committee for this municipal year.
- (ii) That the Combined Authority appoints its Members to each of the decision-making committees as set out in Appendix 13 to the submitted report.
- (iii) That the Combined Authority appoints members to the overview and scrutiny committees as set out in Appendix 13 to the submitted report.
- (iv) That the Combined Authority co-opts members to committees as set out in Appendix 13 to the submitted report.
- (c)** That, in relation to voting rights for committee members, (in addition to any Combined Authority Member exercising one vote) that the Combined Authority:
- (i) That any Independent Member of the Governance and Audit Committee shall be a voting member of that committee.
- (ii) It be noted that any member of a Constituent Council appointed to an overview and scrutiny committee has one vote and that this may be exercised in their absence by their substitute.
- (iii) That any Co-optee from a Constituent Council on any ordinary decision-making committee shall be a voting member of that committee (and of any sub-committee to which they may be appointed by that committee).
- (iv) That any Co-optee who is Deputy Chair of a committee (and a LEP Board member) shall be a voting member of that committee (and of any sub-committee to which they may be appointed by that committee).

- (d) That the Chairs and Deputy Chairs to committees, as set out in Appendix 13 be appointed.
- (e) That Ian Brown and Carolyn Lord continue as Independent Persons in relation to complaints concerning allegations of a breach of the Combined Authority's Members' Code of Conduct on the existing terms for remuneration, until the Combined Authority's annual meeting in 2024.

## 8. Representation on Outside Bodies

The Combined Authority considered a report from the Head of Legal and Governance regarding Combined Authority representation on outside bodies.

Members noted that a private sector member was required to attend the Transport for the North Board, which was usually a member of the LEP. Private sector members have also represented the Combined Authority on other boards, and their continued representation was important as the Combined Authority and LEP become integrated. The Mayor noted the importance of strong private sector representation.

**Resolved:** That the appointments to the outside bodies for the municipal year 2023/24 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be approved.

## 9. Officer Arrangements

The Combined Authority considered a report from the Head of Legal and Governance in respect of the Combined Authority's Officer Delegation Scheme.

Officers clarified that though the appendix included with the submitted report was the latest version, it did not show the tracked changes as intended. Officers confirmed that the changes were mostly minor points of clarification where there may have been ambiguity and provided a verbal summary of the changes made to the document.

**Resolved:** That the Officer Delegation Scheme in relation to Non-Mayoral Functions, attached as Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.

## 10. Constitutional Arrangements

The Combined Authority considered a report from the Head of Legal and Governance to confirm the Authority's Constitutional arrangements in so far as these were not otherwise approved on the agenda.

**Resolved:**

- (a) That the minor amendments to Constitution documents as set out at Appendix 1 of the submitted report be approved

- (b) That the remaining, unamended Constitution documents, for the next municipal year be approved.

## 11. Corporate Governance Code and Framework

The Combined Authority considered a report from the Corporate Performance Manager to advise the Combined Authority on necessary revisions to the Code of Corporate Governance and an associated timeline for this work.

Officers explained that the Corporate Code of Governance set out the principles of how the Combined Authority should operate as a public body. The updated Code of Governance captured the change from having LEP panels to Combined Authority committees, and the integration of the LEP into the Combined Authority with private sector representatives on decision-making committees. The update also included the expansion of inclusive engagement activity beyond the digital platform to further ensure that diverse communities were engaged with, along with the adoption of the West Yorkshire Plan and the annual State of the Region report. Officers noted there was an ongoing programme of organisational change, and further updates would be provided following the conclusion of that process.

**Resolved:** That the proposed revisions to the Code of Corporate Governance and the proposal to review it further and receive a report in the Autumn be endorsed.

## 12. Members' Allowance Scheme

The Combined Authority considered a report from the Head of Legal and Governance in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme.

Officers noted there were three proposals for change to the Members Allowance Scheme. Firstly, the integration of the LEP Remuneration and Expenses Scheme into the Members' Allowances Scheme. Secondly, a proposal to align the childcare rate to the UK Living Wage and thirdly, to remunerate the independent members of the statutory audit committee.

The Mayor noted the positive change which would reduce the potential barriers faced by members with childcare and caring responsibilities.

**Resolved:** That the Members' Allowances Scheme attached as Appendix 1 to the submitted report be adopted for the municipal year 2023/2024, as amended to reflect those matters set out at paragraph 2.2 in the submitted report.

## 13. Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/2023

The Combined Authority considered a report from the Scrutiny Support Officer to summarise and highlight the work undertaken by the three Scrutiny Committees during the 2022/23 municipal year.

Officers noted the report included examples of the work undertaken by the scrutiny committees, and the topics that had arisen in the Mayor's Question

Time sessions held by each committee. The Mayor expressed thanks to the scrutiny committee members for their role in ensuring the decisions of the Combined Authority were appropriately challenged.

**Resolved:** That the Combined Authority annual report summarising the work undertaken by the overview and scrutiny committees in 2022/23 be noted.

#### **14. Calendar of Meetings 2023/2024**

The Combined Authority considered a report from the head of Legal and Governance to approve the calendar of meetings proposed for the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for 2023-2024.

The Mayor noted that the proposed dates of the Transport Committee were subject to change to accommodate the diaries of the committee membership.

**Resolved:**

(a) That the calendar of meetings of the Combined Authority and its committees for 2023-24 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report be approved.

(b) That the dates identified for the Transport Committee may be subject to change be noted.

#### **15. Crisis in the Cost of Living and Doing Business**

The Combined Authority considered a report from the Economic Analysis Manager to provide an update on the latest economic and business intelligence, and to provide an update to members on the delivery of policies aimed to help businesses and individuals with the crisis in the cost of living and doing business.

The Mayor noted that the people and businesses of West Yorkshire continued to struggle with the impacts of inflation, with increasing energy, rent, and mortgages among the rising costs. The Mayor suggested that there are longer term issues facing the region, and increased devolution powers would help West Yorkshire to support people more effectively.

Officers summarised the report which provided outlines and updates of the programmes undertaken to support people and businesses in West Yorkshire. Analysis had shown that West Yorkshire contained a higher proportion of households in significant poverty compared to the national average, with around 1 in 3 in fuel poverty and the rates of food bank usage increasing by roughly 33% between 2021/22 & 2022/23.

Officers noted that two key programmes had provided support to people and businesses. The Mayor's Cost of Living Emergency Fund provided £3 million of support to the Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise sector via the local districts. The interim evaluation was published with the meeting papers,



and to date had provided £1 million of support to almost 6,500 households, with further support over the coming year.

The Energy Price Emergency Grant was a £1 million fund for small businesses across all sectors to support energy-saving measures and build resilience against longer-term price rises. Officers noted that as of June 2023, 71 projects had been completed with roughly £250,000 of funding allocated.

The Mayor expressed thanks to leaders and district partners for going above and beyond to support people and businesses impacted by inflation.

Members questioned if there had been any lessons taken from the programmes which would inform the delivery of future projects. Officers responded that it had been highlighted that programmes should not be overly prescriptive about how funding is spent in favour of more meaningful consultation with communities involved, and there were also lessons regarding the information collected about those supported which could feel intrusive. The statistics of larger geographical areas may not show the deprivation faced by some who reside there, and so it is important not to discount any areas which are perceived as more affluent than others. Members noted the statistics regarding fuel poverty and food bank use were concerning, and encouraged districts to work together to provide skills support so households could be empowered to access higher incomes. The Mayor noted the importance of gathering data to inform the Combined Authority to provide more effective support.

The Mayor queried if the allocation for businesses was being widened, officers responded that the scheme was one of the first business-to-consumer schemes which had provided significant lessons for future programmes.

**Resolved:** That the latest economic evidence, as well as the policy interventions that had been rolled out thus far be noted.

## **16. Local Visitor Economy Partnership**

The Combined Authority considered a report from the Policy Officer for Employment and Skills to approve the joint application for West Yorkshire LVEP status; note the update of the Destination Management Plan and governance model; and endorse the development of a funding proposal, to establish the region's LVEP, once accredited, subject the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework.

The Mayor noted that West Yorkshire is already prominent on the cultural map thanks to vibrant cities and heritage-rich towns and has also featured prominently in recent television series which has further bolstered tourism. The region welcomed over 65 million visitors in 2022, and approximately 55,000 people were employed in the tourism sector.

Officers noted that the Combined Authority had previously discussed tourism in March 2023, and since then the Local Visitor Economy Partnership had

been developed in joint working with the West Yorkshire districts, to provide an overarching strategy to promote the region as a destination for visitors. A joint working group comprised of members from the visitor economy sector will convene to further the progress made.

Members welcomed the report, and questioned who will lead the working group if elected members will be consulted. Officers responded that the engagement would be led by officers from each district area and include regional stakeholders, but the overall governance model had not yet been confirmed. Multiple working groups would contribute, including a membership group to be chaired by the Mayor, and the suggestion to include district members would be taken into account.

Members questioned what lessons were taken from the 'Welcome to Yorkshire' campaign. Officers responded there were many elements that contributed to the lack of success of the Welcome to Yorkshire campaign and a national review of projects such as 'Welcome to Yorkshire' had been undertaken. The lack of a similar group presented a challenge since there was no national or regional funding allocated and so it is proposed the Combined Authority would contribute and as a result the project would be measure against the spending principles. Officers added that there was a Yorkshire-level campaign as well as a West-Yorkshire-level campaign, and the partnership reviewed how the proposals were taken forward collaboratively without impacting either campaign. Future updates would be presented to members to review the progress.

**Resolved:**

- (a) That the approach of a West Yorkshire LVEP application to VisitEngland be endorsed.
- (b) That the proposed Governance structure and proposals for considering the gainshare to support the activity of the LVEP (to be brought to a future meeting) be noted.

**17. Partnership Working with West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board**

The Combined Authority considered a report from the Associate Director for Improving Population Health to seek approval to enter into the partnership agreement and to agree reciprocal membership arrangements between the Combined Authority and the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board.

The Mayor noted that targeting socio-economic disparity was a key focus for West Yorkshire, and partnership working was an important way to meet the needs of the region. The partnership with the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board sets out how more formally describes the relationship between the organisations and how more strategic collaboration can be achieved.

Officers noted that there were many factors that impact health outside of immediate healthcare professions, and good health was vital to an improved personal, local, and regional economy. The collaboration between the Combined Authority and Integrated Care Board should promote the health of

the population for current and future generations. The partnership agreement codified existing strong relationships, with the proposal that the Mayor become a part of the Integrated Care Board.

The Mayor expressed frustration that the Combined Authority did not have responsibility for health and welcomed the innovative collaboration across West Yorkshire to achieve positive outcomes. Members added the Combined Authority can play a large role in improving health, which will also benefit the regional economy, but that it was important to ensure there was no duplication or extra bureaucracy that may hinder progress.

**Resolved:**

- (a) That the Combined Authority enter into the Partnership Agreement with the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board as attached at Appendix 1.
- (b) The determinants of health and inclusion work programme be endorsed.
- (c) The appointment of the Mayor and the Chief Executive onto the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership Board be agreed.
- (d) The Chair of the Integrated Care Board (or their delegated representative) onto the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee as an ex-officio advisory representative be appointed.

**18. Assurance Framework post LEP integration update**

The Combined Authority considered a report from the Head of Portfolio Management and Appraisal to approve the proposed revisions to the Assurance Framework required because of the changes to the LEP Constitution and governance arrangements following the approval of the LEP Integration Plan.

Officers noted the update factored the changes to the LEP integration, and the management of the end of European funding. The Assurance Framework was also undergoing peer review compared to other combined authorities, and the recommendations were being worked through before a future decision by the Combined Authority.

**Resolved:**

- (a) The proposed revisions to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Assurance Framework required because of the changes to the LEP Constitution and governance arrangements following the approval of the LEP Integration Plan be reviewed and approved.
- (b) The update on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Assurance Framework peer review be noted.

## **19. Project Approvals**

### **Investment Priority 2: Skills and training for people**

Members introduced the 'Digital Skills, Green Skills, and Skills Support for Business' programme for consideration. The programme aimed to support employers to develop the digital and green skills of existing employees and promote training for future talent. The members of the Employment and Skills Committee had contributed to this programme, and acknowledged that digital and green skills required development to create better outcomes for West Yorkshire. The Mayor added the committee had pledged to introduce 1,000 green jobs for young people, and that target had already been met, but more are required to deliver on the climate emergency response.

#### **Resolved:**

With respect to the Digital Skills, Green Skills, and Skills Support for Business, the Combined Authority approved that:

- (i) Projects 1 to 4 (Phase 1) of The Digital Skills, Green Skills, and Skills Support Programme proceed through decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and decision point 4 (full business case) and work commence on 320 activity 5 (delivery) of these projects. Project 5 continues work on its full business case.
- (ii) An indicative approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of up to £7,500,000 be given (Projects 1 to 5). The total programme cost is £7,500,000.
- (iii) Approval be given to the Combined Authority's contribution of up to £6,650,000 for Projects 1 to 4 (Phase 1).
- (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 Employment and Skills Committee.

### **Investment Priority 4: Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability**

Members outlined the three schemes for consideration by the Combined Authority. Members noted that the 'Better Homes Hub scheme' aimed to reduce the carbon impact of the region through means such as retrofitting homes. The project for consideration provided a starting point towards meeting the aims of the Combined Authority, but members noted there was still pace to be gained.

The 'Landscapes for Water – Natural Flood Management' scheme would be conducted in partnership with the National Trust, and members noted the greater impact that could be achieved through partnership with other influential organisations.

Members noted the 'Chellow Dene Wetland' project would provide preventative measures against flooding, and would further reduce the carbon impact of the area by introducing a wildflower meadow.

Officers added that there was a potential for additional development funding regarding the Better Homes Hub, subject to confirmation from the government.

**Resolved:**

With respect to the Natural Flood Management Programme the Combined Authority approved that:

- (i) Programme costs of £1,186,090 be approved in order to support the delivery of the Natural Flood Management - Flood Risk and Drainage Programme. The total programme value is £7,392,862.

With respect to Landscapes for Water – Natural Flood Management the Combined Authority approved that:

- (i) The Landscapes for Water – NFM scheme proceeds through decision points 2 to 4 (business justification) and work commence on activity 5 (delivery).
- (ii) An approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £1,984,000 be given. The total scheme value is £1,984,000.
- (iii) The Combined Authority enter into a funding agreement with the National Trust for expenditure of up to £1,984,000.
- (iv) Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the submitted report.

With respect to the Chellow Dene Wetland the Combined Authority approved that:

- (i) The Chellow Dene Wetland scheme proceed through decision point 2 to 4 (business justification) and work commences on activity 5 (delivery).
- (ii) Approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £41,000, to the Chellow Dene Wetland scheme. The total scheme value is £75,530.
- (iii) The Combined Authority enter into a funding agreement with Aire Rivers Trust for expenditure of up to £41,000.
- (iv) Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report.

This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the submitted report.

With respect to the Better Homes Hub the Combined Authority approved that:

- (i) The Better Homes Hub programme proceed through decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and work commence on the development of individual scheme business cases as outlined in the submitted report.
- (ii) An indicative approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of up to £18,425,000 be given and the reallocation of indicative funding between programmes and schemes within the Better Homes Hub Programme be delegated to the Director of Policing, Environment & Place. The total scheme value is up to £18,425,000.
- (iii) Development costs of up to £2,585,000 be approved to secure staffing resources, consultancy support, undertake research work, develop individual scheme business cases, and deliver the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator element of the programme, taking the total programme approval to £3,303,293.
- (iv) Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the submitted report.

### **Investment Priority 5: Future Transport**

The Combined Authority considered five schemes for progression. Members noted that several schemes listed within the report had already been approved by the Transport Committee, and the additional schemes would provide further benefit to the people of West Yorkshire. The schemes included the 'Rail Accessibility Package' which would improve the accessibility of 64 rail stations, and the 'Mobility Hubs', 'Leeds City Centre Active Travel Links', and 'Bus Enhancement Package' would provide an array of benefits to commuters and those using public transport for leisure activities.

Officers explained the 'Rail Accessibility Package' was led by Northern, however there was insufficient funding to cover all of the West Yorkshire rail stations and so required some CRSTS funding to supplement the project. All stations would benefit, and 44 stations had been prioritised for larger-scale upgrades. Members welcomed the accessibility upgrades, especially for stations such as Todmorden.

Members raised concerns that rural communities do not have the same level of access to public transport, and suggested more partnership working could help to alleviate some of the issues that frequently affect them. The mayor noted that rural communities are frequently engaged

with, and their views considered. Members added that effective public transport solves many issues, though the national financial position presents challenges regarding the implementation of projects in all locations where they were required.

Members queried if the provisions for e-scooter facilities suggested that e-scooters were permitted on the public highway, and that antisocial behaviour was already prevalent within some areas. The Mayor responded that there were opportunities for pilot schemes as had taken place in other authority areas, and when the scooters are well-regulated they can act as a viable alternative to cars. Officers added the inclusion of e-scooters would act as future-proofing based on the eventual decision made by the government.

Members noted that e-scooters are currently banned from buses and trains and raised concerns that commuters may face difficulty using multiple modes of transport. The Mayor responded there were challenges for cyclists regarding the requirement to pre-book ahead of train journeys. Officers added that e-scooters were only permitted within the trial areas and so some operators have banned them from services since they are technically illegal to use on public roads anywhere else.

**Resolved:**

With respect to the West Yorkshire Rail Accessibility Package the Combined Authority approved that:

- (i) The West Yorkshire Rail Accessibility Package proceed through decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and work commence on activity 4 (full business case)
- (ii) An indicative approval to the Combined Authority costs of up to £5,000,000 be given. The total scheme value is £20,042,450.
- (iii) Development costs of £337,100 be approved in order to progress the scheme to decision point 4 (full business case), taking the total scheme approval to £583,100.
- (iv) The Combined Authority enter into a funding agreement, under Section 56 of the Transport Act, with Northern, for expenditure of up to £583,100.
- (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 Transport Committee.

With respect to Mobility Hubs the Combined Authority approved that:

- (i) The Mobility Hubs scheme proceeds decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and work commence on activity 4 (full business case).

- (ii) An indicative approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £3,312,811. The total scheme value is £3,312,811.
- (iii) Development costs of £200,000 be approved in order to progress the scheme to decision point 4 (full business case) taking the total scheme approval to £310,000.
- (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 the Leeds City Centre Active Travel Links (North and South) the Combined Authority approved that:

- (i) The Leeds City Centre Active Travel Links (North and South) scheme proceed through decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and work commence on activity 4 (full business case).
- (ii) An indicative approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £3,304,000. The total scheme value is £3,815,488.
- (iii) Development costs of £400,000 be approved in order to progress the scheme to decision point 4 taking the total scheme approval to £500,000.
- (iv) The Combined Authority enter into an addendum to the existing funding agreement with Leeds City Council for expenditure of up to £500,000.
- (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 Transport Committee.

With respect to the Levelling Up - Bus Enhancement Package the Combined Authority approved that:

- (i) The Levelling Up - Bus Enhancement Package proceed through decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and work commence on development of a programme business case to government and individual scheme business cases.
- (ii) An indicative approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £47,628,832 be given. The total programme cost is £47,628,832.
- (iii) Approval of the delivery costs of £1,500,000 for the Thirsk Row bus hotspot scheme be given, and work continue on activity 5 (delivery). This will replace the existing £1,500,000 CRSTS approval.



- (iv) Development costs of up to £3,950,000 be approved in order to progress the programme business case to government and to support the development of individual scheme business cases up to activity 4 (full business case).
- (v) The Combined Authority enter into an addendum to an existing funding agreement with Wakefield Council for the A639 Park Road scheme for expenditure of up to £970,000.
- (vi) The Combined Authority enter into an addendum to an existing funding agreement with Calderdale Council for the A629 North Halifax scheme for expenditure of up to £2,110,000.
- (vii) Future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report, subject to remaining within the tolerances outlined.

### **Investment Priority 6: Culture and Creative Industries**

Members considered two schemes for progression. The Mayor outlined both schemes which would take place ahead of the Bradford City of Culture 2025 celebrations. The 'Culturedale: Calderdale Year of Culture 2024' scheme would build on the strong screen, location and community assets of the district and include a programme of many events including the screen/ heritage tie in of the Anne Lister Festival. The 'Wakefield Year of Culture 2024' would also build on its assets across the district including the Hepworth and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. The Mayor highlighted 'The Hatchling', which would amplify West Yorkshire's cultural and creative ambition and generate commissions and employment across the creative and production services sectors.

#### **Resolved:**

With respect to CultureDale: Calderdale's Year of Culture 2024 the Combined Authority approved that:

- (i) The CultureDale: Calderdale's Year of Culture 2024 scheme proceed through decision point 2-4 (business justification) and work commence on activity 5 (delivery).
- (ii) Approval be given to the Combined Authority's contribution of £800,000. The total scheme value is £2,520,000.
- (iii) The Combined Authority enter into a funding agreement with Calderdale Council for expenditure of up to £800,000
- (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 Culture, Heritage, and Sport Committee.

With respect to Wakefield Our Year of Culture 2024 the Combined Authority approved that:

- (i) The Wakefield Our Year 2024 scheme proceed through decision point 2 to 4 (business justification) and work commence on activity 5 (delivery).
- (ii) The Combined Authority's contribution of £800,000 be approved. The total scheme value is £4,500,270.
- (ii) The Combined Authority enter into a funding agreement with Wakefield Council for expenditure of up to £800,000.
- (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 Culture, Heritage, and Sport Committee.

## 20. Minutes for Information

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