

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON THURSDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT MEETING ROOM 1 -
WELLINGTON HOUSE, 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 Alan Lamb	Leeds City Council
Councillor Claire Douglas	City of York Council
Councillor Cathy Scott	Kirklees Council
Councillor Matthew Morley (Substitute)	Wakefield Council

In attendance:

Annette Joseph MBE	Diverse & Equal (Leeds)
Caroline Allen	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alexander Clarke	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alan Reiss	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Ben Still	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Angela Taylor	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Simon Warburton	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

42. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Councillor Jeffery, Councillor Poulsen, Councillor Davies, and Councillor Holdsworth.

The Mayor welcomed Annette Joseph, who attended the meeting as the LEP representative.

43. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests at the meeting.

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

The Mayor noted that appendices 1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 3 to agenda item 5 had been identified by officers as exempt from the press and public.

RESOLVED – That in accordance with paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the

meeting during consideration of Agenda Item 5, Appendices 1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 3, on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information and for the reasons set out in the report that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

45. Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 7 September 2023

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 7 September be approved.

46. Bus Reform

The Combined Authority considered a report which set out the next steps for Bus Reform following the completion of the external Audit Report.

Members were supportive of the proposed bus franchising scheme and the commencement of a public consultation.

Councillor Lamb suggested that the Enhanced Partnership Plus option could provide significant improvements to the current bus network for a lower cost and abstained from recommendation (ii).

Resolved:

- (i) That the following be noted:
 - final approval of the Bus Reform Assessment which was then provided to the independent auditor for a report to be obtained of the Bus Reform Assessment.
 - the provision of the external Audit Report, and determination to proceed with the proposed bus franchising scheme.
- (ii) That in accordance with the Act, the following be agreed:
 - notice of the proposed bus franchising scheme be given, and copies of the proposed bus franchising scheme, consultation document, Bus Reform Assessment and Audit Report be made available for inspection.
 - consultation be undertaken of all statutory consultees as listed in section 123E(4) of the Act, and set out in this report, as well as the general public more broadly.
- (iii) That the Bus Reform Assessment, the Audit Report and a consultation document relating to the bus franchising scheme (with finalisation of this delegated to the Executive Director of Transport) be approved for publication.

47. Governance Arrangements

Members considered a report which outlined membership changes across the Combined Authority committee structure.

Resolved:

- (i) That the change in appointment of Kirklees CA member and substitute as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the submitted report be noted.
- (ii) That Cllr Cathy Scott be appointed to replace Cllr Pandor on the Governance and Audit Committee and on the Finance, Resources & Corporate Committee as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the submitted report.
- (iii) That Councillor Eric Firth be appointed as Deputy Chair of the Transport Committee in place of Cllr Manisha Kaushik as detailed in paragraphs 2.4 – 2.5 of the submitted report.
- (iv) That Cllr Manisha Kaushik be appointed to the Economy Scrutiny Committee replacing Cllr Gwen Lowe as set out in paragraph 2.6 of the submitted report.
- (v) That Cllr Masood Ahmed be appointed to replace Cllr Eric Firth as Kirklees Transport Portfolio Holder on the Transport Committee as set out in paragraph 2.7 of the submitted report.
- (vi) That, following changes to portfolio holder responsibilities, the Combined Authority Cllr James Lewis be appointed as Chair of the Business, Economy & Innovation Committee and Cllr Cathy Scott as Chair of the Employment and Skills Committee as set out in paragraph 2.8 of the submitted report.
- (vii) That the changes to appointment of members to committees approved under delegation and set out in paragraph 2.9 to the submitted report be noted.

48. Minutes for Information

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