

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50
WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS LS1 2DE**

Present:

Councillor Robert Light (Chair)
Councillor Stephen Baines
Councillor Jenny Brooks
Councillor Sonja Crisp
Councillor Ian Cuthbertson
Councillor Patrick Davey
Councillor Michael Ellis
Councillor Dot Foster
Councillor Peter Harrand
Councillor Paul Kane
Councillor Elizabeth Rhodes
Councillor Fozia Shaheen
Councillor Rosie Watson

Kirklees Council
Calderdale Council
City of York Council
City of York Council
City of York Council
Leeds City Council
Bradford Council
Calderdale Council
Leeds City Council
Kirklees Council
Wakefield Council
Bradford Council
Bradford Council

In attendance:

Councillor Erin Hill
Kate McNicholas
Ruth Redfern
Angela Taylor
James Flanagan
Ruth Chaplin

Kirklees Council (to minute 5 only)
Bradford Council (to minute 5 only)
WYCA (to minute 5 only)
WYCA
WYCA
WYCA

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Baker, A Cooper, K Groves, G Isherwood and M Isherwood.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 April 2017

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2017 be approved and signed by the Chair.

5. Inclusive Growth

The Committee considered a report on the progress made by the Inclusive Growth Project.

Ruth Redfern the Project Director for Inclusive Growth, Councillor Erin Hill, Kirklees Council and Kate McNicholas, Bradford Council attended the meeting and provided members with an overview and update on the project.

It was noted that a Virtual Team, Core Group, Steering Inclusive Growth Group and an Inclusive Growth Champions Group had been established. Members discussed the details of the work programme and, in welcoming the themes of work and vision of the project, made the following comments:

- Don't keep to local authority focus - encourage private sector to be more involved.
- People have different aspirations and expectations – need to inspire them in different ways.
- Focus on areas of deprivation.
- Look at issues of workforce and management eg. filling vacancies as staff are promoted.
- Heard about what has been done in the work programme – but what has been learnt from it?
- Would like more information on the metrics - how Inclusive Growth is being measured.
- Need to make people feel valued and break the stigma of unemployment.
- Can the apprenticeship levy be used to help?

It was noted that the District Council Leaders were provided with regular feedback and members were asked to contact Ruth Redfern if they, or any colleagues, wished to be involved in the project.

The Committee thanked Councillor Hill, Kate McNicholas and Ruth Redfern for the comprehensive overview and discussion and asked that an update on the impact and outcomes of the project be provided at a future meeting.

Resolved: That an update on the impact and outcomes of the Inclusive Growth project be provided at a future meeting.

6. Loan to Oxford GB2 (Leeds Hilton)

The Committee considered the calling in of the Loan to Oxford GB2 (Leeds Hilton) project for scrutiny.

It was proposed that a task and finish group, led by the Chair, undertakes a review of the project and members agreed the proposed lines of questioning which were attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report. Membership of the group would comprise Councillors Baker, Cuthbertson, Davey, Harrand and Light.

Resolved: That a task and finish group be established to consider the questions as set out in Appendix 1 of the submitted report in respect of the Oxford GB2 loan.

7. WYCA Office Accommodation

The Committee considered a report which provided an update in respect of the WYCA Head Office Accommodation Project

The report outlined the preferred option to refurbish Wellington House which had been endorsed by WYCA and approval given to progress to a detailed design, costs and plan. The scope and parameters of the feasibility work and the next steps for the project were discussed and the need for a clear programme of maintenance for the building once refurbished was highlighted. The need to establish success criteria for the project with respect to productivity was also discussed. Members were invited to tour the building at the conclusion of the meeting.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

8. Forward Programme of Work

The Committee considered a work programme for the coming year.

Members discussed a proposed forward plan of work for 2017/18 and agreed that budgets/funding would be considered at the meeting to be held on 15 November 2017. Other possible items for future meetings include:

- Flood alleviation (follow up actions from the report)
- Branding
- Transport for the North
- Performance/achievement against corporate plan.

The Committee was advised that the programme could be supplemented by further items as they were identified during the year and additional meetings could also be arranged on an ad hoc basis.

It was proposed that the forward plan of work be considered and updated at each meeting and WYCA's forward plan would be provided for information. Other

standard items on each agenda would include Devolution, items for information and items for reporting back to WYCA. Members had previously requested a single item agenda meeting on devolution when full details of an offer are available and this will be scheduled as required.

It was agreed that the SEP Delivery and Transport Plan Delivery Task & Finish Groups should continue during 2017/18 with the following members:

Transport Strategy

Councillor Ian Cuthbertson
Councillor Mike Ellis
Councillor Dot Foster
Councillor Peter Harrand

Strategic and Economic

Councillor Stephen Baines
Councillor Kim Groves
Councillor Paul Kane
Vacancy

A nomination for the vacancy on the SEP Delivery Task & Finish Group would be sought.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Forward Programme of work be amended.
- (ii) That the membership of the Task & Finish Groups be noted.

9. Items for Feedback to WYCA

There were no items to feedback to WYCA.

10. Items for Information

(a) Draft Minutes of the WYCA meeting held on 3 August 2017

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the WYCA meeting held on 3 August 2017 be noted.

11. Devolution

The Committee was provided with an update on the latest position in respect of devolution discussions.

It was reported that meetings had been held over the summer between Yorkshire Leaders, of which 17 had confirmed their commitment to the progression of a "One Yorkshire" devolution deal with Government and that a meeting with the Secretary of State was being sought.

The Committee agreed that there should be consultation with the District Councils and the public should a deal be forthcoming. Members had previously requested a

single item agenda meeting on devolution when full details of a deal are available and this will be scheduled as required.

Resolved: That the update on devolution discussions be noted.