

# **DRAFT**

## **Minutes of the West of England Joint Committee , Friday, 27 January 2023**

### Members:

Metro Mayor Dan Norris, West of England Combined Authority  
Cllr Kevin Guy, Bath & North East Somerset Council  
Cllr Toby Savage, South Gloucestershire Council  
Mayor Marvin Rees, Bristol City Council  
Cllr Steve Bridger, North Somerset Council

1	<p><b>EVACUATION PROCEDURE</b></p> <p>The meeting was held at Turnberrie’s Community Centre in Thornbury. The Chair, Metro Mayor Dan Norris, welcomed everybody to the meeting. The evacuation procedure was set out.</p>
2	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>There were no apologies for absence.</p>
3	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCALISM ACT 2011</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest declared under the Localism Act 2011.</p>
4	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>
5	<p><b>CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p> <p>There were no Chair’s announcements.</p>
6	<p><b>ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS &amp; PETITIONS)</b></p> <p>4 questions from 2 individuals had been received. The questions and the Metro Mayor’s responses were circulated and published on the Authority’s website.</p> <p>Six statements had been received from Members of the Public. The statements had been circulated and published on the Authority’s website prior to the meeting. The following individuals attended the meeting and addressed the Committee for up to three minutes each on the topics of their statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dave Redgewell</li> <li>2. Robbie Bentley</li> </ol>
7	<p><b>COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD</b></p> <p><b>Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Budget Setting Report 2023/24</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ I note that overall LEP Grant Funding that has been attracted into the region is now circa £22.4m over the Medium-Term Financial Strategy period. Uncertainty does still remain in relation to the annual notification of the reduced £375k LEP Capacity Core Grant which creates volatility in terms of medium-term budget setting however the LEP holds a modest unearmarked reserve to manage the financial risk in this respect.</li> </ul> <p><b>MetroWest 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alongside the wider MetroWest rail programme, it’s fantastic to see a request for funding to support the first delivery stage of MetroWest 2 project, including the construction and opening of Ashley Down Station.</li> <li>▪ This investment will be a considerable step towards unlocking the anticipated connectivity, decarbonisation and economic benefits for the Combined Authority region and North Somerset.</li> </ul>

8	<p><b>COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY'S OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>The Chair of the Authority's Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Winston Duguid, addressed the meeting.</p> <p>He echoed the comments of the Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership Board and reflected projects could be better coordinated if North Somerset Council was fully integrated within the Authority and would be cost neutral were this to happen. In respect to Metrowest 2 he urged that the project be moved as swiftly as possible.</p>
9	<p><b>LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) BUDGET SETTING REPORT 2023/24</b></p> <p>Metro Mayor Dan Norris introduced the report and stated that the report set out the proposed 2023/24 budget for the Local Enterprise Partnership. Change requests for the Local Growth Fund and Economic Development Fund also formed part of this report.</p> <p>The recommendations were moved by Metro Mayor Dan Norris and seconded by Councillor Kevin Guy.</p> <p>Mayor Marvin Rees moved the following additional recommendation:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">That Officers review the role, function, value for money and performance of IBB and consider the current funding arrangements, presenting a report detailing the findings and any key recommendations to the Joint Committee in June 2023.</p> <p>This amendment was unanimously carried.</p> <p>Metro Mayor Dan Norris added that this was already underway and an independent mid-term review would be commencing the following month. He hoped that this would show that Invest Bristol &amp; Bath (IBB) was fundamental to all the Authority's work in putting the region on the national and international map.</p> <p>[voting arrangements: Recommendations 1, 3 &amp; 7 – Decision required majority agreement of Committee Members in attendance, or their substitutes (one vote representing each Authority) and excluding the West of England Combined Authority Mayor. Recommendations 2, 4, 5, 6 - Decision required majority agreement of Committee Members in attendance, or their substitutes (one vote representing each Authority) and including the West of England Combined Authority Mayor].</p> <p>The recommendations were unanimously agreed.</p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) To approve a 2023/24 contribution of £110k per each West of England Unitary Authorities, (to be reviewed for 2024/25 onwards), as match funding to attract the government's LEP Capacity Funding;</li> <li>(2) To approve a £160k drawdown from the LEP General Reserve to fund the shortfall in 2023/24 LEP operating costs;</li> <li>(3) To approve the LEP Budget for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 1;</li> </ol>

- (4) To Comment and Review on the LEP revenue forecast for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 2;
- (5) To Approve a £120k drawdown from the LEP General Reserve to fund the shortfall in the 2022/23 LEP Capacity Core Grant;
- (6) To approve the change requests for schemes within the Local Growth Fund programme as set out in Appendix 3;
- (7) To approve the change requests for schemes within the Economic Development Fund programme as set out in Appendix 4.
- (8) That Officers review the role, function, value for money and performance of IBB and consider the current funding arrangements, presenting a report detailing the findings and any key recommendations to the Joint Committee in June 2023.

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**METROWEST 2**

Metro Mayor Dan Norris introduced a report which set out requests for funding to support the next stage of MetroWest 2 project which would deliver the first of the three new stations which were planned to be constructed and opened as part of the project.

The recommendations were moved by Metro Mayor Dan Norris and seconded by Councillor Toby Savage.

In seconding the recommendations Councillor Toby Savage moved an additional recommendation as follows:

“That an urgent review of the current project governance be undertaken to ensure effective delivery and that appropriate oversight was in place for key funding partners concerning project delivery and finance. The approval and implementation of this review, and any enhanced governance proposals, be delegated to the Combined Authority Chief Executives and Chief Executives of the West of England Councils.”

He stated that he welcomed the progress on Metrowest 2 and the recent planning approval this week for North Filton Station. He placed on record his thanks to the planning team at South Gloucestershire Council for the speed that this planning application was determined. This project would benefit both residents and businesses in this area and help make a sustainable community and attract visitors from across the region.

Councillor Savage ask for clarification of the Economic Development Fund (EDF) breakdown. The Interim Chief Executive stated that this would be approved and clarified by the meeting of S151 officers. It was confirmed that this would include the S151 officer from North Somerset Council

Cllr Steve Bridger thanked colleagues for the support for Metrowest Phase 1 and welcomed the work on Metrowest Phase 2.

Upon a vote this recommendation was carried.

Mayor Rees welcomed the new stations opened up at Ashley Down & Henbury.

[voting arrangements: Decision required majority agreement of Committee Members in attendance, or their substitutes (one vote representing each Authority) and excluding the West of England Combined Authority Mayor].

The recommendations were unanimously approved.

The Committee **RESOLVED**:

- (1) to approve the Full Business Case and the award of £13.811m from the Economic Development Fund for stage 1 of the project and the allocation of a further £31.855m for the remainder of the project in line with the current anticipated final cost;
- (2) That an urgent review of the current project governance be undertaken to ensure effective delivery and that appropriate oversight was in place for key funding partners concerning project delivery and finance. The approval and implementation of this review, and any enhanced governance proposals, be delegated to the Combined Authority Chief Executives and Chief Executives of the West of England Councils.

**Signed:**

**Date:**