

Decisions of West of England Combined Authority Committee on 26 January 2024

Decision notice issued on: 07.02.2024

The call-in procedure set out in Standing Order A31.4 applies to the decisions set out below unless stated

Deadline for requests for call-in: 5pm 14.02.2024

Earliest date for implementation of decisions: 15.02.2024

NUMBER	AGENDA ITEM	DECISIONS
10.	Bristol Temple Quarter Regeneration Programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Notes each of the Unitary Authorities will be invited to appoint a representative on the JDV Strategic Steering Board (Appendix 2) to ensure all partners are involved and informed;2) Authorises the establishment of the Joint Delivery Vehicle (JDV) in line with the principles set out in this report and authorises the Strategic Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Strategic Director of Resources and Director of Legal and Governance to finalise the arrangements for the JDV and to take such steps as are reasonably necessary to ensure the establishment and efficient and effective operation of the JDV including entering into the Members' Agreement (paragraphs 2.1 to 2.33);3) Authorises the Strategic Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Resources to approve the BTQ Business Plan, in consultation with Members of the JDV Strategic Steering Board, prior to establishment of the JDV (paragraphs 2.13-2.14);4) Authorises the Strategic Director of Resources to provide corporate core support services (including HR, finance and procurement) through either the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority or Unitary Authorities (subject to agreement) to the JDV on such terms as the Strategic Director of Resources shall decide (to include reimbursement of reasonable costs), and provided always that there is no adverse impact on the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's ability to deliver its wider programmes (paragraph

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		<p>2.38);</p> <p>5) That upon receipt of a Reserved Matters decision, the Chief Executive will notify the Combined Authority Committee Members, in writing, of the same and of the Chief Executive's intended decision on the Reserved Matters Issue. The Members will then have two working days within which to notify the Chief Executive, in writing, that they are not content with the proposed decision. In the event of the same, the Chief Executive will cause an extra-ordinary meeting of the Combined Authority Committee to be convened, which shall be convened within 5 working days, for the matter to be determined. In the event that an extra-ordinary committee is unable to determine the matter within the 5 working day period, the Chief Executive shall be authorised to determine the matter;</p> <p>6) Notes that the JDV will procure a Private Sector Development Partner (PSP) to deliver Phase 1 and support the development of the Strategic Outline Business Case and delivery strategy for St Philip's Marsh (Phase 2), delegating to the Strategic Director of Infrastructure authority to approve (following the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's internal due diligence and governance processes) the procurement strategy, including evaluation criteria and contracting principles which will provide the framework against which the JDV procure and contract the Development Partner (paragraphs 2.45-2.48);</p> <p>7) Notes that JDV once established will directly procure consultants to provide strategic advice to the JDV and to facilitate delivery of the programme;</p> <p>8) Delegates to the Strategic Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance and the Strategic Director of Resources authority to agree Delivery Plans for the Infrastructure works as listed in the Grant Funding Agreement dated 20 April 2023 and to enter into (and/or amend) all agreements (including the Collaboration Agreement and the Grant Funding Agreement) as may be necessary to ensure delivery within approved budgets and risk appetite;</p>

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		<p>9) Authorises the Strategic Director of Infrastructure to make the balance of the Bristol City Council (BCC) and West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Grant Funding (previously secured from the Investment Fund) as set out in paragraphs 2.40-2.41 available to the JDV following its set up following BCC approval on 7 November 2023;</p> <p>10) Authorises the allocation of £6.5m from the existing headroom available within the Investment Fund to make a loan facility available to the JDV, on such terms as the Strategic Director of Resources shall decide (to include the accrual of interest) and for JDV to progress the Phase 2 masterplan and Outline Business Case by 2026 to deliver the next stage of the BTQ Programme; and to delegate to the Strategic Director of Resources to consider and approve the Feasibility and Development Funding Application and to put in place the necessary arrangements to consolidate existing Investment Fund awards and make those funds available to the JDV (paragraphs 2.42-2.43)</p>
11.	Investment Fund Programme	<p>1) Approve the updated West of England Local Growth Assurance Framework.</p> <p>2) Approve the Culture West Full Business Case and to award £1.5m. To delegate the approval of grant giving to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Strategic Director of Economy and Skills in consultation with Unitary Authority Economy and Skills Directors. In the event of a consensus not being reached at Director level, decision making will be escalated to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in consultation with the Unitary Authority CEOs;</p> <p>3) Approve the Outline Business Case for Somer Valley Links and to award £1.414m for B&NES to progress the lower cost alternative package to Full Business Case due for completion by March 2025, and to note the transfer of the project delivery to B&NES post resolution of this business case;</p> <p>4) To approve the Feasibility and Development Funding Application for the CRSTS 2 package/business case for submission by June 2024 and the award of £900k, and to delegate the approval of the detailed scope of work to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Strategic Director of Infrastructure in consultation with Unitary</p>

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		<p>Authority Directors of Infrastructure. In the event of a consensus not being reached at Director level, decision making will be escalated to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in consultation with the Unitary Authority CEOs;</p> <p>5) To approve the Feasibility and Development Funding Application for the West of England Regional Transport Model and the award of £600k to support the use of the model until 26/27;</p> <p>6) To delegate the approval of a Feasibility and Development Funding Application for CRSTS mobilisation and the award of up to £670k to Bristol City Council to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Strategic Director of Infrastructure in consultation with Unitary Authority Infrastructure Directors. In the event of a consensus not being reached at Director level, decision making will be escalated to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in consultation with the Unitary Authority CEOs;</p> <p>7) To delegate the approval of applications for the residual balance of the Low Carbon Challenge Fund Extension project to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Director of Environment in consultation with Unitary Authority Environment Directors. In the event of a consensus not being reached at Director level, decision making will be escalated to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in consultation with the Unitary Authority CEOs.</p>
12.	Delivery Assurance	<p>1) Approve the change requests for schemes within the current programmes as set out in Appendix 1;</p> <p>2) Approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Portfolio Review Board (formerly the titled the Programme Review Board) as set out in Appendix 2.</p>
13.	Appointment of Strategic Director of Resources (Section 73 Officer)	To note the Employment and Appointment Committee's decision to appoint Rachel Musson as the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Strategic Director of Resources (and Section 73 Officer).
14.	Transformation Programme	Note progress across the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Transformation

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		Programme.
15.	Transport Infrastructure Projects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Electric Vehicle Charging Action Plan – Adopts the final version of the Electric Vehicle Charging Action Plan, as set out in paragraphs 1 - 44 of this report; 2) Strategic Rail Plan – Delegates to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority’s Strategic Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the Unitary Authority Infrastructure Directors, to spend the £470k previously allocated funding for the 10-Year Strategic Rail Plan and £250k for the 25-year Rail Strategic Outline Business Case, as set out in paragraphs 45-69 of this report. In the event of a consensus not being reached at Director level, decision making will be escalated to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in consultation with the Unitary Authority CEOs; 3) New Rail Stations Study - Approves the drawdown of £100k from the previously allocated £720k to progress a New Stations Study, as set out in paragraphs 51.1 and 51.2 of this report; 4) Rail Electrification - Approves the award of £200k from Investment Fund (Revenue) to part-fund the Filton Bank (Bristol Parkway to Bristol Temple Meads) Rail Electrification project to Outline Business Case stage. This is subject to the remaining £375k of separate third-party funding being secured to enable the delivery of the proposed scope, as set out in paragraphs 70 - 97 of this report; 5) MetroWest Phase 1 (Portishead Line) - Approves the award of £9.66m of previously allocated funding from the Investment Fund. This is subject to the Department for Transport approving the project Full Business Case, addressing any remaining project capital funding shortfall and formally committing (in writing) to taking on any future capital cost risk on the project, as set out in paragraphs 98 - 136 of this report; 6) Zero Emission Buses - approves delegated authority to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority’s Strategic Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the Unitary Authority Infrastructure Directors, subject to a successful award from the ZEBRA 2 fund, to enter into a grant agreement with First Bus to deliver the proposal as detailed in paragraphs 136 - 159 of this report.

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16.	Mayoral and Combined Authority Budget 2024/25 & Medium-Term Financial Strategy	<p>That Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Agree to undertake a role and purpose review of the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, engaging Mayors and Leaders on the future direction of the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and its strategic investment priorities. This work will report back to the Committee no later than October 2024. 2) Authorise the Interim Chief Executive to work with Unitary Authority Chief Executives to develop and agree a programme of effectiveness and efficiency reviews with progress reported back to the Committee no later than June 2024. 3) Note the Interim Chief Executive will work with the Unitary Authority Chief Executives to explore opportunities for sharing resources where appropriate during the financial year 2024/25. 4) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) Approve the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority budget for 2024/25 as summarised in figure 9a, and the relevant related supporting appendices, but with a retention of £800k (the “Withheld Sum”), split broadly between 50% pay/non pay budget lines. B) Request that the interim Chief Executive brings a report to committee on the conclusion of the work referred to in recommendation No.2 above to enable the release of the Withheld Sum. 5) Approve the Mayoral Budget for 2024/25 together with the funding contribution from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, (Investment Fund), budget of £687k as set out in Figure 18. 6) Approve the Capital Budget as detailed in Appendix 5. 7) Approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 detailed in Appendix 6.

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		<p>8) Agree the specific Highways and Transport Capital Grant allocations totalling £25m and the pothole funding allocation to unitary authorities for 2024/25 as set out in Figure 15.</p> <p>9) Note the 2023/24 forecast position for the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Revenue Budget as set out in Appendix 7, the forecast position for the Mayoral Functions Revenue budget as set out in Figure 18 and the changes to the Capital Forecast as set out in Appendix 5.</p>
17.	Exclusion of Press and Public	<p>Resolved:</p> <p>That under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded during the remainder of the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure to them of exempt information of the following description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the authority holding that information; and ○ Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
18.	Bristol Temple Quarter Regeneration Project - Consideration of Exempt Appendices	The recommendations were agreed as discussed..