

REPORT SUMMARY SHEET

ANNUAL BUSINESS REPORT

Purpose

To consider the annual business report.

Summary

This report includes the following key information:

- Details of the Joint Committee's membership and terms of reference

Recommendations

Members of the Joint Committee are asked to:

1. Confirm / elect the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2021/22.
2. Note the Joint Committee's membership as at paragraph 2.
3. Note the Joint Committee's terms of reference as set out in Appendix 1.

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Position: Director of Legal

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REPORT TO: WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 25 JUNE 2021

REPORT TITLE: WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE ANNUAL BUSINESS REPORT

DIRECTOR: SHAHZIA DAYA, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL

AUTHOR: SHAHZIA DAYA, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the annual business report.

Recommendations

The Joint Committee is asked to:

1. Confirm / elect the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2021/22.
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3. Note the Joint Committee's terms of reference as set out in Appendix 1.

Background / Issues for Consideration

Joint Committee membership

2. The Joint Committee's membership is as follows:

- * Dan Norris, Metro Mayor for the West of England
- * Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol
- * Cllr Kevin Guy, Leader, Bath & North East Somerset Council
- * Cllr Toby Savage, Leader, South Gloucestershire Council
- * Cllr Don Davies, Leader, North Somerset Council
- * Professor Steve West, Chair, West of England Local Enterprise Partnership Board (non-voting member)

Joint Committee terms of reference

3. The committee's terms of reference are set out at appendix 1.

Since January 2020, the West of England Combined Authority Committee has met jointly with the West of England Joint Committee – this joint meeting is the authority's main member decision-taking meeting. Prior to January 2020, the West of England Combined Authority Committee and the Joint Committee held separate meetings on the same day. To streamline arrangements and to enable more efficient meetings, Mayors and Leaders of the authorities agreed in January 2020 that the West of England Combined Authority Committee and the Joint Committee should in future meet together at a joint meeting. This enables, for example, all reports to be published as one, unified agenda and means that one public forum session can take place near the start of the meeting. It is intended that this arrangement will be maintained in 2021/22.

Consultation

4. Monitoring Officers of the West of England Combined Authority constituent councils.

Risk Management/Assessment

5. The Annual Governance Statement requires decision making processes to be set out in the Combined Authority's constitution.

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 6 The public sector equality duty created under the Equality Act 2010 means that public authorities must have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimization and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 6.1 The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:
- Removing or minimizing disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
 - Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
 - Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.
- 6.2 The general equality duty therefore requires organisations to consider how they could positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations. It requires equality considerations to be reflected in the design of policies and the delivery of services, including policies, and for these issues to be kept under review.
- 6.3 Equalities implications in relation to this report.

The obligations in relation to the public sector equalities duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (PSED) have been assessed at each stage of the development process. It has been concluded that the immediate decision primarily relates to the arrangements that

are required to be in place to enable the West of England Combined Authority Order to be lawfully implemented rather than decisions that could be deemed to impact on the rights of groups or individuals with a protected characteristic or others protected under the PSED.

As a body exercising public functions, the Combined Authority is under an obligation to have regard to the PSED when exercising its functions. The Combined Authority understands its Public Sector Equality Duty (PSEC) obligations under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and will ensure that it complies with its PSED obligations.

Finance Implications

7. No specific financial implications arising directly from this report

Advice given by: Malcolm Coe, Director of Investment and Corporate Services

Legal Implications

8. As set out in the body of the report.

Advice given by: Shahzia Daya, Director of Legal

Human Resources Implications

9. No specific HR implications arising directly from this report.

Advice given by: Alex Holly, Head of People & Assets

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – West of England Joint Committee terms of reference

Background papers:

West of England Combined Authority Constitution

West of England Combined Authority Contact:

Any person seeking background information relating to this item should seek the assistance of the contact officer for the meeting who is Ian Hird tel. 07436 600313; email:

democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

Appendix 1

West of England Joint Committee terms of reference:

Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee comprising of the Constituent Councils of the West of England Combined Authority, the Mayor and North Somerset Council (“The Joint Committee”)

Summary of West of England Joint Committee Functions

The West of England Joint Committee is established under Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, as applied by Section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 by the Executives of Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council, North Somerset Council. Following the election of the Mayor of the West of England Combined Authority, the Mayor shall become a member of the West of England Joint Committee.

The Joint Committee is established to deal with any relevant functions that fall outside those set out in the West of England Combined Authority Order 2017; in particular the West of England Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Plan, the receipt of any relevant recommendations from the Local Enterprise Partnership Business Board and any other relevant legacy matters that involve the West of England Combined Authority area and the area of North Somerset Council.

Core Strategic Legacy Functions

The West of England Joint Committee functions:

- Prepare and adopt a Joint Transport Plan
- Prepare and adopt the Joint Spatial Plan
- Agreeing expenditure from the 2012 City Deal Funding including;
 - Economic Development Fund
 - 10-year Local Major Transport Funding allocation
 - The Growth Hub
- Approval of West of England One Front Door Programme Schemes including;
 - LGF Rounds 1, 2 and 3
 - Revolving Infrastructure Schemes
- Approving and Monitoring funding awarded for one off projects including from;
 - Cycling Ambition Fund
 - Local Sustainable Transport Fund
 - Better Bus Areas
- Review of the West of England Growth Fund
- Support the West of England Growth Hub
- Support Invest Bristol & Bath

The West of England Joint Committee will contribute to the following work that will be led by the West of England Combined Authority:

- The delivery and development of key strategies to improve the economic condition across the West of England area.
- Agreement and delivery of a set of strategic priorities that enables the region to deliver on its climate commitments.
- Championing the delivery of policy, projects and programmes of work that enables the region to deliver on its climate commitments.

Matters requiring a decision on the following functions are to be determined by a majority of those Members in attendance, or their substitutes (one vote representing each Authority) and excluding the West of England Combined Authority Mayor, subject to the proviso that any such matter that solely impacts the area of a single unitary authority requires that unitary authority to vote in favour of the proposal:

- Agreeing expenditure from the 2012 City Deal Funding including;
 - Economic Development Fund
 - 10-year Local Major Transport Funding allocation
 - The Growth Hub
- Approval of West of England One Front Door Programme Schemes including;
 - Revolving Infrastructure Schemes
- Monitoring / approving application for existing joint funding awarded for one off projects including;
 - Cycling Ambition Fund
 - Local Sustainable Transport Fund
 - Better Bus Areas

Matters requiring a decision on the following functions are to be determined by a majority of those Members in attendance, or their substitutes (one vote representing each Authority) and including the West of England Combined Authority Mayor subject to the proviso that any such matter that solely impacts the area of a single unitary authority requires that unitary authority to vote in favour of the proposal:

- West of England One Front Door Programme Schemes including;
 - LGF Rounds 1,2 and 3
- West of England Growth Fund Review
- Support the West of England Growth Hub
- Support Invest Bristol & Bath

Matters requiring a decision on the following functions are to be determined by unanimous agreement of all Members, or their substitutes (one vote representing each Authority) and excluding the West of England Combined Authority Mayor:

- Prepare and adopt a Joint Local Transport Plan

- Prepare and adopt the Joint Spatial Plan

Save for the provision in Section A – Standing Orders (Descriptions and Rules of Procedure), that can only apply to a meeting of the West of England Combined Authority, the rules of procedure will apply to meetings of the Joint Committee save that the voting arrangements applicable to the Joint Committee shall be as referred to in these Terms of Reference.