

Minutes

West of England Joint Committee

Friday 28 January 2022

Members present:

Metro Mayor Dan Norris, West of England Combined Authority (Chair)

Councillor Toby Savage, Leader, South Gloucestershire Council

Mayor Marvin Rees, Bristol City Council

Councillor Kevin Guy, Leader, Bath & North East Somerset Council

Councillor Donald Davies, Leader, North Somerset Council

Richard Bonner, Chair, West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (non-voting member)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the members of the Joint Committee.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the West of England Joint Committee held on 17 December 2021 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

In respect of Item 9 the wording be amended from “the Chair welcomed the clarification given in this report on the voting arrangements” to “the Chair said that he did not formally note the report”.

In respect of Items 10 and 14 the voting to be recorded as 4 in favour and one against.

5. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chair's announcements.

6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (QUESTIONS; STATEMENTS)

The Chair advised that 29 questions had been submitted in advance of this meeting on the following subjects:

Q 1 Anthony Domaille – Thornbury High Street

Q 2 Chris Holland – Thornbury High Street

Q 3 Ashley Smith – Thornbury High Street

Q 4 Jane Mitchell – Thornbury High Street

Q 5 Ann Probert – Thornbury High Street

- Q 6 Helen Reeves – Thornbury High Street
- Q 7 Jeanette Walters – Thornbury High Street
- Q 8 John Lee – Thornbury High Street
- Q 9 John Reynolds – Thornbury High Street
- Q 10 Vivien Reynolds – Thornbury High Street
- Q 11 Tanisha Dagger – Thornbury High Street
- Q 12 Colin Wise – Thornbury High Street
- Q 13 Paul Morrish – Thornbury High Street
- Q 14 Meg Wise – Thornbury High Street
- Q 15 Peter Mannion and others – Thornbury High Street
- Q 16 David Redgewell – Transport – passengers forum
- Q 17 David Redgewell – Transport – customer service website
- Q 18 David Walker-Cornes – Thornbury High Street
- Q 19 Chris Roberts – Thornbury High Street
- Q 20 Susan Blick – Thornbury High Street
- Q 21 Jill Cyphus – Thornbury High Street
- Q 22 Thornbury Town & District Residents Association – Thornbury High Street
- Q 23 Rob Galpin – Thornbury High Street
- Q 24 Julia Galpin – Thornbury High Street
- Q 25 Malcolm Best – Thornbury High Street
- Q 26 Sheila Watson – Thornbury High Street
- Q 27 John Nash – Thornbury High Street
- Q 28 Rob Cyphus – Thornbury High Street
- Q 29 Julie Roberts – Thornbury High Street

The Chair then confirmed that written replies had been sent to all questioners in advance of the meeting. The questions and replies had been circulated to committee members and were available to view on the Combined Authority web site.

The Chair then advised that 69 statements had been received in advance of the meeting. The statements had been circulated to committee members and were available to view on the Combined Authority web site. The statements received were on the following subjects (statements were presented by those in attendance):

- Dave Redgewell – Transport Issues
- Rob Galpin for Thornbury Town and District Residents Association - Thornbury High Street
- Gil Gilroy – Thornbury High Street
- John Reynolds – Thornbury High Street
- Malcolm Best – Thornbury High Street

NB - Rob Galpin made two statements, one on behalf of the Thornbury Town and District Residents Association and one on behalf of himself at the discretion of the Chair.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Richard Bonner, Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership Board commented that the issues identified in the LEP budgets and that these proposals allowed ongoing value and allowed the Authority to continue to go forward.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair advised that Councillor Winston Duguid, Chair of the Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee had submitted comments on behalf of the committee following on from their meeting held on 24 January 2022. These comments had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were available to view on the Combined Authority web site.

Councillor Duguid presented these comments and stated that he would have a meeting with the LEP Chair to discuss the LEP budget in more detail.

9. LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP REVENUE BUDGET SETTING REPORT 2022/23

The Joint Committee considered a report which sought approval of the Local Enterprise Partnership revenue budget for 2022/23 (agenda item 9).

The Chair stated that he had received a letter from the Thornbury Town and District Residents Association asking whether the vote on that issue could be postponed. The Mayor stated that this would be a matter for the Committee.

Councillor Savage acknowledged the strength of feeling and concerns expressed at the meeting about the Thornbury High Street proposals but stated that this was part of an overall scheme to improve accessibility and linking to other transport schemes and would therefore be supporting the recommendations.

The Chair then moved the report recommendations.

This motion was seconded by Mayor Rees

The Joint Committee **RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the LEP Budget for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1.
2. To approve a 2022/23 contribution of £110k per each West of England Unitary Authority, (to be reviewed for 2023/24 onwards), as match funding to attract the government's LEP Capacity Funding.
3. To approve a £160k drawdown from the LEP General Reserve to fund the shortfall in 2022/23 LEP operating costs.
4. To note the forecasted LEP revenue outturn for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 2.
5. To delegate the approval of the reallocation of funds through the Getting Building Fund, (GBF), and Economic Development Fund for schemes within the programme on an overall cost neutral basis, to the Combined Authority Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent councils.
6. To approve the Outline Business Case for Thornbury High Street and allocate £4.577m for the delivery of the scheme from the EDF, pending ongoing discussions about Investment Fund headroom, and where there is urgency to delegate the approval of the Full Business Case to the Combined Authority Chief Executive in consultation with the West of England Chief Executives.
7. To approve the change requests for schemes within the Local Growth and Getting Building Fund programmes as set out in Appendix 3.

8. To approve the change requests for schemes within the Economic Development and Revolving Infrastructure Fund programmes as set out in Appendix 4.

The Chair then closed the meeting at 4.00 p.m.