

WEST OF ENGLAND

Combined Authority

Minutes of the meeting of the West of England Joint Committee Friday, 28 September 2018

Members:

Mayor Tim Bowles, West of England Combined Authority
Cllr Toby Savage, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Tim Warren, Bath & North East Somerset Council
Mayor Marvin Rees, Bristol City Council
Cllr Nigel Ashton, North Somerset Council

1	<p>EVACUATION PROCEDURE</p> <p>The Chair, Mayor Tim Bowles set out the evacuation procedure for the venue.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everybody to the West of England Joint Committee being held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Bristol City Council.</p> <p>He introduced those present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Marvin Rees from Bristol City Council; • Councillor Nigel Ashton from North Somerset Council; • Councillor Tim Warren from Bath & North East Somerset Council; • Councillor Toby Savage from South Gloucestershire Council <p>The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded and that the recording would be available the following working day.</p>
2	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Professor Steve West, the Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership (see Item 6)</p>
3	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCALISM ACTION 2011</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest declared.</p>
4	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>
5	<p>CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>The Chair was pleased to report the Growth Hub development proposals were being implemented and would report to LEP Board in due course.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that the following items would be discussed at the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investment fund decisions • Local Enterprise Partnership funding which was seeking approval for three local schemes • A revised programme for the new JLTP; • An update on Phase 1 of the Metrobus programme; • a progress report on the business plan.
6	<p>COMMENTS FROM CHAIR OF LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP</p> <p>The Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) had sent his apologies for the meeting.</p>
7	<p>ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC</p> <p>Two questions had been received and written responses had been provided. The responses were published on the Authority’s website following the meeting. The questions received were as follows:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dave Redgewell, Bus and Rail Services 2. Andy Birkett, MetroWest <p>Five statements had been received and the attendees had been invited to speak in the order their statements had been received. The statements were published on the Authority's website following the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dave Redgewell, West of England Transport 2. Dave Redgewell, West of England Transport 3. Robert Crockford, Metrowest 4. Dave Redgewell, West of England Transport 5. Christina Biggs, Local Transport Networks
8	<p>PETITIONS</p> <p>No petitions had been received.</p>
9	<p>WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY BUSINESS PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT</p> <p>The Chair introduced a report providing an update on progress in delivering the West of England Combined Authority Business Plan, which had been endorsed by the Joint Committee at its meeting on 1 June 2018. Quarterly reports on the delivery of the Business Plan would be brought to the meeting. This was the first such quarterly update.</p> <p>Councillor Nigel Ashton focussed on upcoming activity and stated that the work on the new leisure centre was due to commence in October 2018.</p> <p>Councillor Toby Savage raised a point about the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) in the Risk Register and the detrimental impact of appeal decisions from the Planning Inspectorate upon the deliverability of strategic development locations. He was grateful that a letter had been written to the Secretary of State on this issue and was confident that the issue would be taken seriously by the Minister.</p> <p>There was no voting as the report was for noting.</p> <p>Agreed:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">That the report be noted.</p>
10	<p>LEP ONE FRONT DOOR FUNDING PROGRAMME</p> <p>The Chair introduced a report asking the Joint Committee to consider the business cases for several schemes seeking approval for funding through the Local Growth and Economic Development Funds. These schemes were the Bath Innovation Pioneer Project, the Keynsham Town Centre Improvement Programme (Keynsham High Street element) and the Avonmouth Severnside Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defence.</p> <p>The Chair moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Tim Warren.</p> <p>Councillor Warren stated that this was having a positive effect in Bath and North East Somerset, such as at the quays and Keynsham High Street which had received mainly positive feedback since the scheme had been completed.</p> <p>In response to a question by Councillor Ashton, Tim Richens, Interim Director of Investment and Corporate Services, confirmed that the new scheme profiling would not affect any of the</p>

other schemes or any funding already secured.

The Chair moved to the voting which was in line with the constitution.

Recommendations 1-4 agreed by all 4 Constituent Authorities and the West of England Combined Authority Mayor.

1. That the £4m funding envelope identified for the Nuclear Futures Open Innovation and Technology Centre (NUCLEATE) be returned to the LGF pot and this scheme be allocated priority pipeline status should more LGF funds become available and a deliverable option can be identified in the funding period.
2. For the Bath Innovation: Pioneer Project Full Business Case:
 - a) That the identified funds for the acquisition of the Pioneer building be approved.
 - b) That an allocation for the refurbishment works be approved subject to the supply of a detailed programme and cost plan supported by an appropriate level of survey and design, and securing any necessary planning consent.
 - c) That an LGF funding award of up to £8.739m be agreed, subject to the State Aid position being clarified by the statutory officers at Bath & North East Somerset and this being acceptable to the Accountable Body (WECA).
3. That the Keynsham Town Centre Improvement Programme – Keynsham High Street Element Outline Business Case be approved subject to the supply of a detailed programme by the end of September 2018 showing that delivery of the scheme by March 2021 could be achieved.
4. That the change requests for the LGF schemes set out in Appendix 2 be approved.

Recommendations 5-6 agreed by all 4 Constituent Authorities, excluding the West of England Combined Authority Mayor.

5. That the Full Business Case for the Avonmouth Severnside Enterprise Area Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defence be approved subject to:
 - a) The submission of finalised works specification and costs, detailed programme and delivery arrangements post procurement and selection of preferred contractor.
 - b) Securing planning consent and land acquisition.
 - c) Confirmation of fit within the EDF programme by the Business Rates Pooling Board.
 - d) Funding of the commuted sum subject to further clarification and accounting advice
6. That the change requests for the EDF and RIF schemes set out in Appendix 3 be approved.

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TRANSPORT UPDATE

The Chair introduced a report that updated Members on the progress and the revised programme for the new Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP). The report stated that the current agreed programme for the JLTP had been for public consultation to take place from mid-October 2018 to the end of November 2018. There were several issues which had put pressure on this timescale and it was now proposed that the Joint Committee endorsed the draft JLTP for consultation at its next meeting on 30 November 2018. Public consultation would then commence on 9 January 2019 and run for six weeks. The revised timescales were set out in Appendix 4.

Councillor Nigel Ashton wished to place on record that his Council's Executive meeting would not be until 4 December 2018 so would not be able to fit in with this timetable.

The recommendations were moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Nigel Ashton.

	<p>The Chair moved to the voting which was in line with the constitution.</p> <p>Unanimously agreed by all 4 Constituent Authorities, excluding the West of England Combined Authority Mayor.</p> <p>The Joint Committee endorsed the revised programme for the JLTP.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>METROWEST PHASE 1 PROGRAMME UPDATE</p> <p>The Chair introduced a report outlining progress on the Development Consent Order (DCO) of Metrowest Phase 1 programme update, outlining the emerging priorities and deliverables to date and asked for agreement to defer the decision on further draw down of LGF for scheme development (GRIP4 and GRIP5) to November 2018 to enable more detailed discussions to take place with stakeholders on the funding options to support the delivery of the programme.</p> <p>An alteration of recommendation 2 was tabled and agreed at the meeting.</p> <p>The recommendations were moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Nigel Ashton.</p> <p>The Chair moved to the voting which was in line with the constitution.</p> <p>Recommendation 1 was for noting and required no voting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the update on the Metrowest Phase 1 programme be noted and the continuation of spending towards obtaining the DCO within the overall level of LGF funding as approved by the Joint Committee on 25 July 2018. <p>Recommendations 2 (as altered) & 3 – agreed with a majority of the four unitary authorities and Mayor</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. That the Joint Committee agree that a review of governance be undertaken and presented back for approval at Joint Committee in November 2018 and agree the interim governance arrangements as set out in paragraph 12 of the report. 3. That the Joint Committee agree the deferment of the Gateway Decision on the progression of Phase 1(b) element of the MetroWest programme until the next meeting of the Joint Committee in November 2018.
	<p>Signed:</p> <p>Date:</p>