

Report of the City Solicitor to the meeting of Council to be held on 20 February 2014.

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Subject:

WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY – APPOINTMENTS/NOMINATIONS

Summary statement:

To consider the appointment/nomination of Members to serve on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, its Transport Committee, Investment Committee, Governance and Audit Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Portfolio:

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:



1. SUMMARY

To consider the appointment/nomination of Members to serve on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, its Transport Committee, Investment Committee, Governance and Audit Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The West Yorkshire Combined Authority is due to be established from 1 April 2014. In June 2013 the final Scheme was endorsed by the five West Yorkshire Councils (Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield), the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority (ITA), the Local Enterprise Partnership and the City of York Council which will be part of the joint-working arrangements as a “non-constituent council”. The Scheme was submitted to the Secretaries of State for Communities and Local Government and Transport on 31 July 2013. The proposals are now awaiting the making of a formal Order by Parliament.
- 2.3 The Combined Authority will support economic growth and job creation in West Yorkshire and York. It will help West Yorkshire and York secure devolution of powers and funding from Whitehall to invest in transport, infrastructure, economic development and regeneration. It will enable the creation of the West Yorkshire and York Transport Fund, which will invest up to £1 billion in transport improvements over the next ten years. The West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority and the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive would be dissolved.
- 2.4 A Shadow Board has been working on the arrangements for the new Combined Authority and has made recommendations regarding the establishment of a number of committees to which the constituent Councils are being invited to make appointments/nominations. The appointments would then be made by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority at its first meeting on 1 April 2014.

3. APPOINTMENT/NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 The membership of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority will consist of 10 Members:
- each of the five West Yorkshire Councils (constituent councils) to appoint one member (the Shadow Board recommends that the Members appointed should be the Leaders of the respective councils)
 - three of the five of the West Yorkshire Councils to appoint a further member to reflect, as far as is reasonably practicable, the political balance position across West Yorkshire (the Shadow Board recommends that the additional Members should be the Leaders of opposition party groups)
 - The City of York Council (non-constituent Council) to appoint one Member
 - West Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership to appoint one Member
 - each of the above to appoint an alternate Member to act in the absence of the appointed Member



3.2 Membership of the Transport Committee will consist of 15 Members on a political balance basis. Of the 15 places 4 have been allocated to Bradford Council. The Members nominated by this Council will be appointed at the first meeting of the WYCA. The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Transport Committee will be appointed at the first meeting of the WYCA from amongst the 15 Members.

3.3 The West Yorkshire and York Investment Committee will consist of 8 Members:

- Two Members (to be the Chair and Deputy Chair) to be appointed by the Combined Authority
- One Member to be nominated by each of the five West Yorkshire Councils and by the City of York Council

The Shadow Board has suggested that each Council nominates their Portfolio Holder who has responsibility for regeneration.

3.4 The Governance and Audit Committee is to consist of 7 members made up as follows:

- One Member (to be the Chair) to be appointed by the Combined Authority
- One member to be nominated by each of the five West Yorkshire Councils and by the City of York Council

The Shadow Board has suggested that each Council nominates the Chair of their Governance and Audit Committee.

3.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consist of 18 Members on a non-political balance as follows:

- Three Members to be nominated by each of the five West Yorkshire Councils and by the City of York Council

It's suggested by the Shadow Board that Councils may wish to reflect their approach to the allocation of places on Overview and Scrutiny Committees between party Groups in determining the balance of their nominations. The Chair will be appointed from amongst the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

There are no specific financial implications at this point. An Independent Remuneration Panel is making recommendations for an allowance scheme for approval at the first meeting of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The establishment of the Combined Authority will be covered by the making of a formal Order by Parliament.



6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. If a Combined Authority is established this will have a separate legal identity from the Council and the other constituent authorities and will have separate statutory powers and duties.

7. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Leader of the Council be appointed to serve as the Council's representative on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.
- 8.2 That an alternate be appointed for the Council's representative on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.
- 8.3 That, if invited, to appoint an additional Member to serve on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to reflect the political balance across Party Groups in the West Yorkshire Councils.
- 8.4 That, if invited, to appoint an alternate Member for an additional Member to serve on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to reflect the political balance across Party Groups in the West Yorkshire Councils.
- 8.5 That Members be nominated for appointment to the following West Yorkshire Combined Authority Committees as follows:
 - (a) Four Councillors to the Transport Committee
 - (b) One Councillor to the West Yorkshire and York Investment Committee
 - (c) One Councillor to the Governance and Audit Committee
 - (d) Three Councillors to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9. APPENDICES

None

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report to Council on 10 December 2013 – West Yorkshire Combined Authority: Government Consultation
Report to the Executive on 18 June 2013 - West Yorkshire Combined Authority



Report to the Executive on 9 October 2012 - Review of Governance Arrangements
in West Yorkshire
Report to the Executive on 16 April 2013 - West Yorkshire Governance Review and
Combined Authority



**City of Bradford
Metropolitan District Council**

