

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held Remotely on Tuesday, 24 November 2020

Commenced 10.30 am
Concluded 10.55 am

Members of the Executive – Councillors

| |
|---------------------|
| LABOUR |
| Hinchcliffe (Chair) |
| I Khan |
| Ross-Shaw |
| Ferriby |
| Jabar |
| Farley |

Observer: Councillor Poulsen (Minute 173)

Councillor Hinchcliffe in the Chair

170. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In the interests of transparency, the Leader stated that she was Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and that she was also on a shortlist of candidates as a Labour nominee for the position of Mayor of West Yorkshire.

ACTION: City Solicitor

171. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

172. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

There were no recommendations referred to the Executive.

LEADER OF COUNCIL & CORPORATE

(Councillor Hinchcliffe)

173. WEST YORKSHIRE DEVOLUTION

On 11 March 2020, the Chancellor announced a “minded to” Mayoral Devolution Deal for the West Yorkshire area (which covered the Local Authority areas of Bradford, Leeds, Wakefield, Kirklees and Calderdale). A report was submitted to Executive on 24 March which outlined the details of the devolution deal, its benefits for Bradford District, its people and its businesses and set out the required next steps.

The detail of the proposed changes to the governance arrangements required for implementation of the deal were reported to Executive on 19 May. It required that there will be a directly elected Mayor for West Yorkshire to be elected in May 2021.

The reports which went to Executive in March and May 2020 endorsed the “minded to” deal on behalf of Bradford District; approved a statutory review to be undertaken jointly with the other West Yorkshire Councils and the Combined Authority; provided for a draft Governance scheme to be produced for consideration; and agreed a consultation to take place in June and July 2020 on the devolution proposals and its governance.

Once the consultation was completed a summary of the outcome was reported to Executive on 8 September 2020. Due consideration was given to the comments and suggestions made and it was not proposed that anything was raised which required representations to be made for significant changes to the proposals.

All the constituent authorities agreed to submit a summary of the responses to the Secretary of State for Communities in order to progress the West Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Devolution Deal.

The Chief Executive submitted a report (Executive Document “CO”) which sought to:

- Consent in principle to the draft Order, to establish a mayoral combined authority and associated changes as set out in the ‘minded to’ Devolution Deal.
- Delegate authority to the Managing Director of the Combined Authority, in consultation with the Leader and Chief Executive of CBMDC and each Constituent Council and the Chair of the Combined Authority, to finalise and consent to the final draft of the Order further to any technical issues which may arise.

The Leader stated that this was the second phase of the work that was now required as part of the devolution process. Following consultation on the proposals and the benefits that would accrue both in terms of additional resources and devolved power, a positive number of responses had been received to the consultation that was undertaken earlier in the year, with the majority expressing support.

She added that the additional funding would go towards improving transport; skills and the environment. That this was much needed in the context of the current pandemic and our ability to plan and steer a way through the post Covid world. To this end, Bradford had already made great strides in implementing an economic recovery plan.

The Chief Executive echoed the sentiments expressed by the Leader and stated that the benefits devolution would bring to the West Yorkshire region would be immense. Following Parliament approval of the Order, mayoral elections would be held in May 2021.

The Managing Director of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority was also present at the meeting and clarified that the Spatial Development Strategy had not been included in the Order but would follow at a later date. In addition, included in the Order were new powers relating to transport, including easier access to bus franchising and a regional approach to control of a Key Route Network.

The Deputy Leader in welcoming the exciting opportunity the devolution deal afforded, personally thanked the Leader for the foresight and fortitude she had shown in negotiating the deal, which was one of the best deals negotiated to date, and one which will unlock real regeneration, employment and training opportunities in the district and the wider region.

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder in endorsing the deal, hoped that it would act as real driver for growth in the district, as well as realising the wider environmental benefits that would accrue through initiatives like the Transforming Cities Programme, and a whole host of other schemes.

The Leader of the Opposition was also present at the meeting and in welcoming the proposal, thanked the Government for its unprecedented investment in the region, and she hoped that the money would be targeted at the right investment opportunities. In relation to the governance arrangements she welcomed the political balance and the overview and scrutiny arrangements that would be in place.

The Leader added that she hoped that further powers and funding would follow and that all the people of the Region would feel the benefits of Devolution. She thanked all those that had been involved in the devolution process and who had worked tirelessly to ensure the deal came to fruition, and it was therefore:

Resolved –

- (1) Executive considered and commented on the content of Document “CO”, along with the draft Order.**
- (2) Executive consented in principle to the draft Order to**

establish a mayoral combined authority and associated changes as set out in the 'minded to' Devolution Deal.

- (3) That authority be delegated to the Managing Director of the Combined Authority, in consultation with the Leader and Chief Executive and the Chair of the Combined Authority, to finalise and consent to the final draft of the Order further to any technical issues which may arise.**
- (4) That the updated timetable set out in Appendix 1 to Document "CO" be noted and the next steps which are subject to the consent being given by the Constituent Councils and Combined Authority, to the Order that the Secretary of State will lay in Parliament in December 2020.**
- (5) That Document "CO" and the appendices be referred to Council to consider, provide any comments, and endorse the Executive decisions taken.**
- (6) That the decision be exempt from call-in on the grounds of urgency, for the reasons set out in paragraph 5.1 to Document "CO".**

ACTION: Chief Executive

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

Michael Bowness, Assistant City Solicitor - 07582 103658 and
Phil Witcherley, Head of Policy and Performance - 07970 684889)

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Executive

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER