

# York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton  
on 13 March 2024 commencing at 2.00 pm**

**Present:** City of York Councillors Jane Burton, Emilie Knight (substitute), Edward Pearson, Martin Rowley BEM;

North Yorkshire Councillors Lindsay Burr MBE, Melanie Davis (substitute), Paul Haslam, George Jabbour and Steve Watson.

**Officers present:** James Farrar, Y&NYCA; Rachel Antonelli, Y&NYCA; Paul Clark, Y&NYCA; Will Baines, NYC and Edward Maxwell, NYC.

## **1 Election of Chair for the Meeting**

Will Baines, Senior Scrutiny Officer, welcomed everyone. After introductions, the first item of business was the election of a Chair for this meeting.

Councillor Lindsay Burr MBE was nominated for the position. A vote was taken and on a show of hands was elected as Chair.

### **Resolved -**

That Councillor Lindsay Burr MBE be elected as Chair for this meeting.

## **2 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from City of York Councillors Dave Merrett, Andrew Waller (substitute Emilie Knight), Mark Warters and North Yorkshire Councillors Steve Shaw-Wright (substitute Melanie Davis) and Andrew Williams.

## **3 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **4 Public Participation**

No public questions or statements had been received.

## **5 Scrutiny and Governance Arrangements – Terms of Reference**

Considered –

A report in the name of Rachel Antonelli, Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer, in relation to the scrutiny and governance arrangements pertaining to the Overview and Scrutiny function.

It was noted that development of the constitution continues to be a work in progress, with a lot of feedback received to date from the elected members of the constituent councils and officers. A first set of proposed amendments to the constitution will be considered by the Combined Authority at its next meeting on Monday, 18 March. More detailed queries on the constitution may form part of a working group of the Audit and Governance Committee.

Questions raised by members included:

- The reference in the Terms of Reference section 7.2 of no casting vote.
- The potential make-up of sub-committees of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- The provision of substitutes on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, taking into account the different nuances of each constituent council on this matter.
- Exploring a 'scrutiny first' approach similar to that used by organisations such as Transport for the North.
- The role of pre and post decision scrutiny at the Combined Authority.

**Resolved –**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the scrutiny and governance arrangements.

## **6 Member Code of Conduct and Register of Interests**

Considered –

A report in the name of Rachel Antonelli, Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer, detailing the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (YNYCA) Member Code of Conduct.

It was explained that the LGA Model Code of Conduct has been adopted by the Combined Authority.

Questions raised by members included:

- The process for dealing with Standards complaints received and deciding the role that a Councillor is acting as, given they are co-opted members of the Combined Authority as well as members of a constituent council.
- The process for the publication of the completed Register of Interest forms online to ensure personal details are kept secure.

**Resolved –**

To note the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Member Code of Conduct and to complete annual Register of Interest Forms.

## **7 Introduction to Devolution and the Combined Authority**

This agenda item was taken as part of item 9.

## **8 Corporate Plan**

James Farrar, Interim Head of Paid Service for the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority introduced the Interim Corporate Plan, presenting a strategy to ensure resources are in place for delivering the commitments within the Devolution Deal and provides confidence to government that the Combined Authority has the capacity, capability and culture to successfully deliver devolution for the area. It was noted that the Mayor, once elected, will undertake a full strategic review of the commitments and priorities of the Combined Authority.

The clear commitment to partnership working by the Combined Authority was recognised, given the wide range of key stakeholders involved. Although this is the first Devolution Deal for the area, there is an expectation that this is a starting point and second, third and fourth deals may follow.

It was felt that the Corporate Plan provides strong foundations for the Combined Authority for the future.

An Economic Framework has also been produced, combining both the City of York and North Yorkshire strategies to work up a joint version.

It was noted that the Combined Authority will be the subject of a Gateway Review after five years, with work ongoing at the moment with government to set out the performance baselines for this to enable further monitoring and scrutiny against key performance indicators.

In summary, it was felt that there has been lots of hard work to get to the current stage with the Corporate Plan, and this document will evolve once the Mayor is elected in May.

Opening the discussion on this item, a message of thanks was given from the Chair and the rest of the committee members present to James and all of the officers involved, both at the Combined Authority and the constituent councils, for the foundations laid to date to get things up and running so quickly.

Questions raised by members included:

- It was asked whether a staff directory could be circulated to committee members to help them to locate the best person to speak to on a particular topic.
- Plans to signpost to the public about the role of the Combined Authority and voter engagement for the upcoming election.
- The opportunities a Combined Authority will bring to make a difference and leverage in external funds for the area.
- The transfer of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner functions to the Mayor and Combined Authority in May and options for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have oversight of this in the future.

**Resolved –**

That the Corporate Plan be noted.

## **9 Work Programme**

Comments raised included:

- It was requested that the newly elected Mayor be requested to attend the first meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the new municipal year, to set out their priorities for their first 100 days and beyond to the committee.
- Key themes from the Corporate Plan to be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of briefing sessions.
- Interest in how the work of the committee will relate to the Levelling Up White Paper and Scrutiny Protocol

## **10 Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting concluded at approximately 4.00 pm.