

York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority

Minutes of the meeting held at West Offices, York on Friday 6 September 2024 commencing at 3.00 pm.

Present: Mayor David Skaith in the Chair. North Yorkshire Councillor Gareth Dadd, City of York Councillor Claire Douglas, City of York Councillor Peter Kilbane and North Yorkshire Councillor Carl Les OBE.

In attendance: North Yorkshire Councillors Lindsay Burr MBE and Kevin Foster

Officers present:

YNYCA - James Farrar, Rachel Antonelli, Mike Russell, Andrew Leeming, Liz Philpott and Paul Clark

CYC – Ian Floyd

NYC – Richard Flinton, Barry Khan and Elizabeth Jackson

CA24-36 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CA24-37 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2024

The minutes of the meeting of the York and North Yorkshire Combined authority held on 22 July 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

CA24-38 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

CA24-39 Public Participation

There were no public questions.

CA24-40 Mayor's Update

The Mayor provided an update on the work of the Combined Authority since the last meeting in July. Engagement across York and North Yorkshire had continued whilst projects had been launched which would support businesses, residents and communities.

York and North Yorkshire Growth Hub's Autumn Programme was launched at C4DI in Northallerton on the 23 August. The programme included expert advice, digital transformation, skills development and investment readiness for businesses.

Grow Yorkshire, which was an initiative led by the Combined Authority working in partnership with the Yorkshire Agricultural Society and the Country Land and Business Association had launched Farming Outlook. Farming Outlook was a radio show which aimed to highlight and support farming communities across York and North Yorkshire. North Yorkshire Council had provided £20,000 in funding through the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund to continue a trial of this initiative.

Transport engagement had continued. The Mayor had visited places across the region including Low Bentham Women's Institute Coffee Morning where residents highlighted their concerns surrounding transport as well as environmental issues. As a hinterland area of North Yorkshire, which bordered Lancashire, Low Bentham was a rural community that felt isolated and without a reliable local bus service.

The Mayor also attended a public meeting at Selby Community Centre, as guest of Keir Mather MP, to hear about the future of bus services in the Selby area and the needs of residents.

The Mayor met with Chris Boardman in his role as commissioner of Active Travel England. Chris shared ideas on how residents across our rural, coastal and city region could be given more choice when it came to travel. All this work would feed into our future transport work.

The deadline for applications for the Business Board closed in early August and interviews were currently taking place. The first Business Board meeting would take place in early October.

Finally, the Mayor had celebrated his first 100 days in post which had provided an opportunity to share the work the Combined Authority had been doing via extensive social, stakeholder and press activity to mark the first 100 days in office whilst giving a platform to set out the next steps as an authority.

CA24-41 Mayoral Investment Fund – Project Funding Decisions

Considered – A joint report of the Head of Delivery and the Head of Strategy which set out projects that have been proposed by North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council for funding from the Mayoral Investment Fund in response to the original approval in principle to develop a pipeline of investible schemes that will support delivery of the York and North Yorkshire Economic Framework.

Liz Philpot, Head of Delivery, gave an overview of key points:

- A schedule of proposed projects was detailed at Section 4.1 of the report. Two project appraisals had been fully completed and were now recommended for approval.
- **Scarborough Boat Hoist** – the requested funding of £700k was part of a larger funding package and would enable NYC to go ahead with another funding application for the boat hoist itself.

- **North Yorkshire EV Charging Infrastructure Improvements** – the funding was intended for replacement of charging points across Hambleton and Craven areas. In Hambleton the original supplier was now in liquidation and replacement of the installation was required to ensure the continued operation of the facilities. In Craven the original contractor had withdrawn from the market and the existing installations were not able to be transferred to a new operator.
- Further schemes would be brought to the next meeting on 2 October

Members welcomed the investment. It was noted that the Movement and Place Transport Study in York included plans to tackle congestion and reduce miles travelled.

Resolved (unanimously) – that:

- i) the following projects be approved for Mayoral Investment Fund grant:
 - a) Scarborough Harbour Boat Hoist - £700,000
 - b) North Yorkshire EV Charging Infrastructure Improvements - £175,000
- ii) appraisal work be completed to inform recommendations for the following projects be referred to the YNYCA meeting on 2 October 2024 for decision:
 - a) Harrogate Junction Improvements
 - b) Selby Station Gateway Contribution
 - c) York Movement and Place Transport Study
 - d) York City Centre Regeneration
 - e) York Cultural Passport for Young People Programme

CA24-42 Adult Skills Fund Strategic Skills Plan

Considered – A report of the Head of Strategy which set out the Adult Skills Fund Strategic Skills Plan, a key of requirement of the Department for Education (DfE) to demonstrate readiness for the devolution of the Adult Skills Fund. It aligns to the Economic Framework and the Skills Strategy.

Andrew Leeming, Head of Strategy, gave an overview of key points:

- Substantial consultation had taken place with providers to ensure a smooth transition to being delivered by the Combined Authority
- It was hoped to make the process simpler and to increase capacity in the system from over 200 providers currently, to a smaller number of providers but operating more locally
- The report set out the key priorities which included encouraging wider access and participation to get people back into work, to unlock progression pathways looking at underutilised talent and developing more flexible provision

Members welcomed the report and thanked officers and consultees for their contribution this.

Resolved (unanimously) –

That the Adult Skills Fund Strategic Skills Plan be approved as a key strategic document.

CA24-43 Brownfield Housing Fund - Round 2

Considered – A report of the Head of Delivery which provided information on the second call for project applications to the York and North Yorkshire Brownfield Housing Fund Programme. The second call for projects had been approved by the Combined Authority in February 2024 to utilise the remaining balance of approximately £3m from the Brownfield Housing Fund Programme following the first round of approvals in December 2023.

Recommendations were made for the approval of grant contributions towards new projects. An allocation from the Mayoral Investment Fund was also requested towards the York and North Yorkshire Brownfield Housing Fund to maximise delivery of brownfield housing sites, and new homes, including affordable homes. It would also enable programme over-commitment to ensure full utilisation of the existing funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

Liz Philpott, Head of Delivery, gave an overview of key points:

- The July meeting of the Combined Authority had considered proposals for Round 2 Phase 1 to allocate £4.3m to housing schemes which consisted of the balance of £3m remaining from the total £12.7m from MHCLG, and approval for £1.3m from the Mayoral Investment Fund.
- Approval was now sought for Round 2 Phase 2. Three housing projects totalling £3.36m were proposed as detailed in section 5 of the report, to be funded from the Mayoral Investment Fund.
- Using the Mayoral Investment Fund in this way was enabling the Combined Authority to overcommit and ensure that national funding was fully utilised, and also allowed some projects to work on a slower timescale without the risk of losing funding.
- Approving the projects, with conditions, would provide certainty and enable work on the schemes to progress.
- Officers would continue to actively seek further funding opportunities to support further housing investment and reduce the call on the Mayoral Investment Fund.

Members noted that the scheme was enabling the provision of 492 new homes, 70% of which would be affordable. It was confirmed that whilst 4% of the budget was earmarked for management and admin costs, every effort would be made to keep such costs to a minimum and any unused funding would be allocated back to the projects.

Resolved (unanimously) – that:

- i) A maximum additional allocation is made of £3.36 million from the Mayoral Investment Fund in addition to the previous approval of £1.298 million (i.e. total £4.634 million) towards the York and North Yorkshire Brownfield Housing Fund (YNY BHF) to enable the remaining three of the six Round two applications to be supported;
- ii) Approval be given for three projects to be supported through the YNY BHF Programme :
 - Lowfield Lane Phase two, York
 - Ordnance Lane, York
 - Neville House, Gargrave
- iii) To actively seek additional opportunities for external funding to support Brownfield Housing Investment in York and North Yorkshire.

CA24-44 Combined Authority Governance

Considered – A report of the Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer making recommendations in relation to governance arrangements of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Rachel Antonelli, Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer, introduced the report and advised that the Mayor wished to appoint Councillors Peter Kilbane as Portfolio holder for Transport and Councillor Carl Les as portfolio holder for Housing with immediate effect. The Mayor welcomed the Councillors and the expertise they would bring to these roles, which represented the two largest areas of work for the Combined Authority,.

Rachel Antonelli then reported that it was proposed to change the name of the Business Committee to the Business Board and to update the terms of reference. Paragraph 4.8 of the updated terms of reference provided for two public sector board members to be appointed from each constituent authority with responsibility for key areas such as business, transport, economy and skills. Provision was also proposed in relation to remuneration subject to the independent remuneration panel process and to allow remote attendance to count towards quoracy as it was not a formal committee.

It was confirmed that the appointment of portfolio holders was in the gift of the Mayor and would normally take place at the Annual Meeting, and the appointments were for noting.

Resolved (unanimously) – that:

- i) That the Combined Authority notes the allocation of portfolios as set out at Appendix A for the municipal year 2024/25.
- ii) That the Combined Authority approves the amendment to the title of the Business Committee to Business Board and the updated Terms of Reference for the Board, as can be found at Appendix B.

- iii) The Combined Authority authorises the Interim Monitoring Officer, to make the necessary amendments to the Combined Authority Constitution.

CA24-45 Forward Plan

Considered – The Combined Authority’s draft Forward Plan was submitted for approval for publication on the Combined Authority’s website. The Governance and Assurance Manager reported on new entries to the plan since the agenda was published.

Resolved (unanimously) –

That the draft Combined Authority Forward Plan be approved.

The meeting concluded at 3.33 pm.