

MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

TUESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2024 AT 12.00 PM

SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY, 11
BROAD STREET WEST, SHEFFIELD S1 2BQ



Present:

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| Mayor Oliver Coppard (Chair) | South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority |
| Councillor Robert Frost (Reserve) | Barnsley MBC |
| Councillor Tom Hunt | Sheffield City Council |
| Councillor Glyn Jones (Reserve) | City of Doncaster Council |
| Councillor Chris Read | Rotherham MBC |

In Attendance:

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| Rebecca Brookes | Director of Legal and Governance | SYMCA Executive Team |
| Gareth Sutton | Executive Director of Resources & Investment | SYMCA Executive Team |
| Melanie Corcoran | Executive Director of Transport | SYMCA Executive Team |
| Clare Monaghan | Executive Director of Policy and Strategic Development | SYMCA Executive Team |
| Damian Allen | Chief Executive, City of Doncaster Council | City of Doncaster Council |
| Kate Josephs CB | Chief Executive, Sheffield City Council | Sheffield City Council |
| Sharon Kemp OBE | Chief Executive, Rotherham MBC | Rotherham MBC |
| Sarah Norman | Chief Executive, Barnsley MBC | Barnsley MBC |

Marcus O'Callaghan (Minute Taker)

Apologies:

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE | Barnsley MBC |
| Mayor Ros Jones CBE | City of Doncaster Council |
| Martin Swales OBE | SYMCA Executive Team |

277 Welcome and Apologies

The Mayor welcomed Leaders and apologies were noted as above.

Announcements

The Mayor addressed the concerns regarding the former Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner accounts and noted that:

- Due diligence from the Mayoral Combined Authority finance team had identified that Minimum Revenue Provision for £65m of debt financed investment had not been accounted for in the backward look audited accounts nor the forward looking Medium Term Resource Plan.
- The MCA was working at pace with external auditors, South Yorkshire Police, and the Government to identify a sustainable solution.
- An independent review would be conducted.

The Mayor noted that he would be attending the first meeting of the Prime Minister's Council of Nations and Regions later that week. The Council aimed to strengthen central Government's relationship with Mayors and devolved administrations.

The Mayor's Economic Advisory Council met in Rotherham in September and visited the transformative Forge Island regeneration project, as well as Factory 2050. The Mayor noted these projects as examples of the work taking place to grow the South Yorkshire economy.

The Mayor had attended the Labour Party Conference and engaged with senior Government ministers, including the Aviation Minister and the Business Secretary, to discuss South Yorkshire projects.

US nuclear energy company Holtec had announced their plans to make South Yorkshire the home of their new Small Module Reactor factory, pending a successful bid.

Cllr Jones stated that City of Doncaster Council were continuing to progress due diligence in procuring an operator for Doncaster Sheffield Airport, and that a full business case would be brought to the Mayoral Combined Authority Board as soon as possible.

Urgent Items

None.

Items to be Considered in the Absence of Public and Press

There were no exempt items on the agenda.

The Mayor highlighted that Appendices B, C and D of Item 10 had been identified as exempt from publication, but that the substantive item remained open.

Declarations of Interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the agenda

Leaders declared interests in schemes approved in their Local Authority area.

282 **Reports from and questions by members**

None.

283 **Receipt of Petitions**

G Hume presented the following petition:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am here today to present a petition of over 800 signatures to the Mayor in which we ask that the No 11 bus service be reinstated immediately. This bus route which was previously the No 47 has served people in the Herdings, Gleadless and Heeley communities for over 30 years.

The negative effects of the withdrawal of this vital transport link cannot be underestimated. Anecdotally we have heard from desperate workers who cannot get to their employment, care workers who cannot get to their service users, Parents who cannot get their children to school, Students who cannot get to college, Elderly and disabled people who are unable to access shops and vital services and residents who cannot get to clubs' groups or their places of worship.

The arbitrary cancellation of this bus service happened effectively overnight, with no notice given, and no discernible consultation with community groups or other stakeholders.

This bus route not only runs through an area which is high on the deprivation index but also an area which is currently under a local regeneration plan. How is withdrawing a bus service that is a lifeline to so many people reasonable and proportionate? In addition, it's withdrawal is in flagrant breach of equality regulations as a high proportion of passengers are vulnerable elderly and/or disabled.

There should be a clear duty of care to residents in Sheffield to provide a regular and reliable service in order that they can go about their everyday lives. Therefore, we ask that remedial action is taken to restore this basic entitlement.

The Mayor thanked those who had taken time to prepare and sign the petition. He stated that as the network was run by private operators, a solution could not be provided at the moment, and that the current system needed improvement. Bus Reform was suggested as one example of improvement.

The Mayor agreed that bus routes through the communities affected were vital and offered to visit those impacted by the loss of service to speak with them directly.

284 **Public Questions**

None.

285 **Minutes of the meeting held 10 September 2024**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2024 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

286 **Bus Reform - Independent Review of Assessment and Consultation**

The report on the independent review of the bus franchising assessment was presented.

The Mayor welcomed the report and the progress made on Bus Reform.

It was noted that:

- An assessment had been completed of how Bus Reform could be implemented, and an external audit had found this to be accurate.
- If the Board was in favour, the next step would be to undertake a 12-week statutory consultation between 23rd October 2024 and the 15th January 2025.
- Various stakeholders would be included in this consultation, including but not limited to, bus operators, bus user groups and Local Authorities.
- An independent report would be created following the consultation, and a response to this report would be considered by the MCA Board meeting in March for a final decision on whether to proceed with a franchised bus network.

Leaders expressed the importance of a strong public transport network for South Yorkshire, highlighting the need for improved connectivity as well as further funding and support.

RESOLVED that the Board:

1. Considered the independent review letter, setting out the conclusions from the independent review of the bus reform assessment undertaken by PwC (Appendix A).
2. Considered the independent review report prepared by PwC (exempt Appendix B).
3. Considered the updated bus reform assessment (exempt Appendix C).
4. Approve progression of the proposed bus franchising scheme to consultation in accordance with the provisions of sections 123E -123G Transport Act 2000.
5. Approve giving notice of the proposed bus franchising scheme, and to publish and make copies available for inspection of the proposed franchising scheme, consultation document, bus reform assessment and independent review report in accordance with sections 123E(2)(d) and 123E(3) of the Transport Act 2000.
6. Approve the delegation of all the tasks required to finalise the consultation document and other required material, ready for publication at consultation

launch, to the Head of Paid Service, Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

287 **Programme Approvals**

A Programme Approvals report was presented to the Board.

Leaders welcomed the schemes and highlighted the improvements that would be seen in their respective Local Authority areas.

RESOLVED that the Board considered and approved:

1. Progression of City Centre Cycling / Cross City Bus to post Outline Business Case (OBC) in principle approval for up to £21.01m grant to Sheffield City Council, subject to the conditions set out in Assurance Summary A
2. Progression of FourJaw Growth & Innovation Support to full approval and award of £0.28m grant to FourJaw Manufacturing Analytics Ltd, subject to the conditions set out in Assurance Summary B
3. Progression of South Yorkshire Strategic Transport Model to full approval and an initial award of £2.92m grant to South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority as detailed in 2.3.
4. Acceptance of £3,500 grant from Higher Education Progression Partnership South Yorkshire (HeppSY) for the development of a partnership Uni Connect project with Careers Hub for academic year 2024/25.
5. Change request for Hybrid Air Vehicles project and,
6. Delegate authority to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for the points above.

288 **Delegated Authority Report**

The Delegated Authority Report was presented.

RESOLVED That the Board note the decisions and delegations made.

I, the undersigned, confirm that this is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name

Position

Date