

MCA - MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

MONDAY, 6 JUNE 2022 AT 10.00 AM

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



Present:

Mayor Oliver Coppard (Chair)	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
Councillor Chris Read (Vice-Chair)	Rotherham MBC
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
Mayor Ros Jones CBE	Doncaster MBC
Councillor Terry Fox	Sheffield City Council

In Attendance:

Dr Dave Smith	Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service	SYMCA Executive Team
Dr Ruth Adams	Deputy Chief Executive	SYMCA Executive Team
Damian Allen	Chief Executive	Doncaster BMC
Sharon Kemp	Chief Executive	Rotherham MBC
Sarah Norman	Chief Executive	Barnsley MBC
Eugene Walker	Acting Chief Executive	Sheffield City Council
Martin Swales	Interim Executive Director of Infrastructure and Place (Interim)	SYMCA Executive Team
Stephen Edwards	Corporate Director of Public Transport	South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
Steve Davenport	Chief Legal & Monitoring Officer	SYMCA Executive Team
Gareth Sutton	Chief Finance Officer/S73 Officer	SYMCA Executive Team
Felix Kumi-Ampofo	Director of Corporate Policy	SYMCA Executive Team

Apologies:

Councillor Alex Dale	NE Derbyshire DC
Councillor Steve Fritchley	Bolsover DC
Councillor Tricia Gilby	Chesterfield BC
Councillor Simon Greaves	Bassetlaw DC
Huw Bowen	Chesterfield BC
Karen Hanson	Bolsover and North East Derbyshire Councils
Gill Callingham	NE Derbyshire District Council
Paul Wilson	Derbyshire Dales DC

1 **Welcome and Apologies**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to his first meeting as South Yorkshire Mayor and hoped everyone enjoyed the long bank holiday weekend.

Members noted apologies from representatives of the non-constituent member councils.

2 **Announcements**

Members noted that there were no formal announcements.

The Mayor noted that it would be the last MCA Board meeting with Dr Smith as Chief Executive of South Yorkshire MCA. He thanked Dr Smith for his service and for leading the organisation on behalf of SYMCA and the people of South Yorkshire.

The Mayor went on to say he was humbled to have been elected by the people of South Yorkshire last month and will do everything in his power to make South Yorkshire healthier, wealthier, happier, and more confident.

3 **Urgent Items**

None.

4 **Items to be Considered in the Absence of Public and Press**

None.

5 **Voting Rights for Non-constituent Members**

The Mayor asked the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer to explain and advise.

The Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer noted that there were no non-constituent members present at the meeting and stated that by convention they do not have voting rights unless specifically allowed as an exception which is not an issue for today's meeting.

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

Cllr Houghton declared an interest in programme approvals relating to Barnsley.

Cllr Fox declared an interest in programme approvals relating to Sheffield.

Mayor Jones declared an interest in programme approvals relating to Doncaster.

Cllr Read declared an interest in programme approvals relating to Rotherham.

M Swales declared an interest to the item entitled 'appointment of an interim

Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service'. He advised that he would leave the room and the meeting for this item.

7 **Reports from and questions by members**

None.

8 **Receipt of Petitions**

None.

9 **Public Questions**

Q1. G Henshaw (South Yorkshire Free from Fossils) introduced himself, asked his question and supporting statement.

'Is the mayor going to make contact with the members of the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority (SYPA) to explore how the £10.5 billion of SYPA funds could be better invested to support South Yorkshire businesses and link with the policies promoted by the Mayor?'

The Mayor stated that there had already been some initial conversations about this, and he will continue to build on these with a number of pension funds and institutional investors in the coming weeks and months. The Mayor agreed to update Mr Henshaw and the public on these when he is able to.

ACTION: The Mayor to contact Mr Henshaw with an update when one is available.

Q.2 G Arthur (South Yorkshire Freedom Riders) introduced himself, asked his question and gave a supporting statement.

'Will the mayor investigate returning the elderly travel concessions that elderly travel pass holders had before April 2014?'

Those concessions for the elderly were free train travel in South and West Yorkshire between 9am and 11pm and an extension of free travel on buses from 9am instead of the national condition of 9.30am. The cost of the free train travel for the year 2014 was budgeted at £329,000.

The return of free train travel would bring us back into line with Liverpool and West Midlands. An interim measure would be to investigate a £10 annual charge as used in Manchester?'

Mr Arthur added that the passes alleviate stress on the NHS and social care and encourage people to get out and engage in their wider community. He asked if the pass could include train travel including into West Yorkshire, and questioned whether it was necessary for there to be a curfew of 11pm. He added that he believed there was not an adequate amount of public consultation about the changes.

The Mayor responded by stating that the Freedom Riders were one of the first

groups he spoke to when he announced his candidacy, and he would be happy to do so again. He added that he wants our public transport network to be fit for purpose, accessible and affordable for everyone. The Mayor noted that the reinstatement of free rail travel for the elderly was an affordability issue noting that the MCA was considering other options. He added that there has been market research conducted and the results of this will be brought forward to a future MCA Board meeting, but he will discuss the issues raised by with colleagues.

ACTION: The Mayor to discuss the market research that was conducted by MCA with colleagues and update Mr Arthur following this.

On the issue of allowing elderly concession pass holders to travel before 9.30am during weekdays, The Mayor noted that the restriction to off peak during the working week is specified nationally in the Transport Act. The Mayor noted that funding was not made available by Government to extend this.

Q.3 F Postlethwaite (Better Buses) introduced herself, asked her question and gave her supporting statement.

'Can the mayor please report on progress made on the investigation into franchising of bus services which was agreed on 4th March? In particular, is there a timetable for when data will be requested from bus operators, and a deadline for them to respond with the information?'

She thanked the Mayor for meeting the group within two weeks of his election and for speaking with the protectors outside the building prior to the MCA Board meeting.

F Postlethwaite detailed the types of complaints she received and the issues the public have with bus services in South Yorkshire.

The Mayor thanked F Postlethwaite and her colleague M Potham for taking the time to come into the MCA and talk to him and colleagues recently. He agreed with her sentiments and stressed that this was why in his second week in office he chose to focus on public transport. He stated that he has taken a number of the initial formal steps needed to move forward with the franchising assessment, including requesting data from the bus operators and appointing a Bus Franchising Manager.

Q.4 N Slack introduced himself, asked his questions and gave supporting statements. The questions were in reference to the Mayoral Priorities paper, item 11 on the agenda.

'Currently questions like this have to be provided in writing 7 days in advance of the meeting, this usually means just a day or so after the agenda is published. Even well-resourced organisations might struggle to read and digest the reports presented for the meeting, let alone solo activists like myself. I believe this to be detrimental to democracy within the SYMCA, a point of priority during the Mayor's electoral campaign. Can I therefore propose that the mayor look into the way questions and petitions are handled with a view to shortening the deadline for submission before any meeting?'

The Mayor responded that the turnaround time for public questions has been organised in such a way so the MCA are able to respond to the questions during the meeting. If the deadline was extended, we may not be able to get an appropriate response to the question for the meeting thus leading to a response in writing, so there are trade-offs for both options.

‘The last bullet point in the paragraph, “developing our collective thinking on what the region can do to grow it’s Arts, Culture and Heritage offer.” Does this comment presage a return to the commitment given by the previous mayor to appointing an arts, culture and heritage commissioner?’

The Mayor noted that South Yorkshire’s cultural and creative sectors are among the most valuable assets to the region and the Art, Culture and Heritage Project Director is currently working on this agenda. He added that he is leading a spotlight week on art and culture at the end of the month and is working with the Project Director to look at all possible options for maximising existing and developing new opportunities for our cultural sector.

Q.5 Dr M Thompson (Green New Deal South Yorkshire) introduced himself, asked his question and gave a supporting statement.

‘To address the current energy crisis and the longer-term climate crisis we need a massive upswing in renewable energy which can wean us off fossil fuels and create energy security and independence. Solar and wind are cheapest and the least risky options, well-developed and with very few side effects. But central government energy plans are currently mainly focused on continuing support for fossil fuels or on high-tech solutions which are expensive and risky, such as nuclear power and so-called blue hydrogen. What plans does SYMCA have to promote and support the expansion of both wind and solar in the region?’

He acknowledged that what the MCA can do is limited due to its remit but that it could do things such as to commission training. He added that the UK currently imports turbine blades, and this is something that could be done here in South Yorkshire, at facilities such as the AMRC.

He mentioned an opportunity to create a Green South Yorkshire Bond which would provide the financing to allow the MCA and local councils to undertake more work to ensure a green new deal in South Yorkshire and noted that there are some good projects already underway in the region including Sheffield Renewables.

The Mayor agreed that South Yorkshire needs a green energy strategy and that there are lots of good projects being undertaken across the region already that we could draw on and replicate, and that there is the opportunity for new skills and jobs to be created. He assured Dr Thompson that he would be writing out to him with a detailed response.

ACTION: The MCA to write to Dr Thompson with a more detailed response.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 21 March 2022 be agreed to be a true and accurate record.

11 **Mayoral Priorities**

The Chief Executive introduced and summarised the paper, noting that the South Yorkshire Mayor has made immediate progress in implementing his priorities since his election success, particularly in his engagement with local communities.

The Mayor added that he was grateful to leaders for their support when creating the manifesto.

RESOLVED: That the Board noted the content of the report.

12 **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

The Director of Corporate Policy introduced the paper and explained the fund to the meeting.

The MCA noted it is the lead authority for this work and must submit a plan to national government by early August. This plan must set out how the MCA intend to manage the funding for each area and how we will assess and approve any applications for funding.

The paper proposes that the South Yorkshire Mayor and MCA Chief Executive hold discussions with each local authority Leader and Chief Executive to determine priorities and how they will be weighted in the investment plan submitted. Board noted that there is a large role for the MCA to play in terms of engagement with local communities, and business groups, and their views need to be considered.

Cllr Houghton noted that whilst the funding is welcome it is not the level of funding we would have got if we were still in the European Union, noting the need to keep pressure on central government in regard to all the funding offered and ensuring it continues for longer than 3-years.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- i) Note the guidance and actions required in its capacity as lead authority.
- ii) Will have further discussions to discuss and agree the Government priorities for the SPF and additional principles to be applied locally.
- iii) Agree that the Chief Executives should oversee an inclusive process to develop an investment plan to be presented in draft to the MCA Board in July, following agreement to the framework and set of principles and priorities.
- iv) Endorses the submission of a plan for the Multiply programme into Government and delegate leadership of this plan to the Education, Skills and Employability Board.

13 **Supporting At-Risk Bus Services**

The Corporate Director of Public Transport introduced the paper and summarised the key issues.

Board noted that whilst the restrictions introduced as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic have ended, passenger numbers on public transport are still only at three-quarters of those prior to the pandemic. Despite an extension to recovery funding until October, there remain many services in South Yorkshire that are commercially unsustainable.

Cllr Read commented that it is vital that we do this until October but that it is not a sustainable solution forever. He added that it was vital that all parties – central government and bus operators – are committed to creating a good bus service for South Yorkshire and ensuring it is funded properly.

Cllr Houghton noted that currently we are looking at a cliff-edge in October unless central Government come up with a solution. He added that it is vital we get the message out to the people of South Yorkshire about the challenges we are facing and continue to pressure Government for the solution.

Mayor Jones stressed that we would see social exclusion if there was a reduction in bus services and this is not an option for the people of South Yorkshire. She stated that this is not levelling up but driving down the region.

RESOLVED: That the board:

- i) Approves a policy decision to prevent near-term reductions in bus services in SY by intervening with additional financial support.
- ii) Approves the variation to the operational bus services budget by up to £1.9 million
- iii) Approves the delegation to the Director of Public Transport in consultation with the Mayor and Chair of TEB to enter into arrangements to secure services.

14 **Extension to Zoom Beyond Concession**

The Corporate Director of Public Transport introduced the paper and summarised it and the asks of it.

The Zoom Beyond Concession was brought in last year to support extending the benefits of young person's travel from under 18-year-olds to under 21-year-olds. This will end on the 20th June and this paper seeks to extend the scheme.

Cllr Read stated that he was pleased that we can continue this and offered his support to the scheme.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- i) Approves a policy decision to extend the Zoom Beyond concession.
- ii) Approves the variation to the budget to accommodate costs incurred in 2022/23.
- iii) Approves the production of replacement cards to be issued to currently eligible participants.

- iv) Delegates the negotiation of revised rates of reimbursement with bus and tram operators to the Corporate Director of Public Transport.

15 **LEP Review**

The Deputy Chief Executive summarised the report and the recommendations within it.

The Board the requirements for the MCA to set out an integration plan for the LEP and submit this to Government by the end of July, or at the latest the end of January 2023.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- i) agrees the process to be undertaken to complete the integration plan, including considering an option for business engagement to be put forward to Members by the LEP.
- ii) agreed the timeline and engagement plan for development

16 **Programme Approvals**

The Chief Financial Officer introduced the report and the recommendations within it.

The Mayor welcomed the programme approvals and noted that we are having a spotlight this week on Net Zero and this heavily relates to that work.

RESOLVED: That the Board has considered and approved:

- i) The progression of “Sheaf Valley Cycling Route” project to full approval and award of £2.3m grant to Sheffield City Council (SCC) subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary.
- ii) The progression of “A630 Bus Improvements” project to full approval and award of £1.6m grant to Doncaster Borough Council (DBC) subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary.
- iii) The progression of “Goldthorpe Station Access” project to full approval and award of £0.55m grant to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary.
- iv) The progression of “Elsecar Active Travel Scheme” project to full approval and award of £0.57m grant to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary.
- v) The progression of “D0037” project to full approval and in-principle approval for an investment of £3m to a Sheffield based business subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary.
- vi) The progression of “Housing Retrofit” project from Outline Business Case (OBC) to Full Business Case (FBC) subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary.
- vii) The Local Transport Fund Grant (£5.66m); the award of grant to South Yorkshire Supertram Ltd for the tram element of funding (£4m); and the earmarking of the bus element to the protection of priority services (£1.66m).

- viii) The approval of 12 Project Change requests
- ix) That delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for the schemes covered at 1-4 above.
- x) The delegated authority to be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer and the Mayor and Chair of the Business Growth Board to enter into legal agreements for the scheme covered in point five, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of due-diligence and negotiation of an appropriate investment method.

17 **Nominations and Appointments**

The Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer introduced this report and the recommendations within it.

Board noted that MCA Audit, Standards and Risk Committee had regular problems with achieving quoracy and the MCA was being asked to approve a reduction to the number of members from ten to four. The proposal was developed as a result of a recent effectiveness review and in consultation with the Chair of the Audit, Standards and Risk Committee.

Cllr Read asked for this to be a year trial.

The Mayor offered his thanks to the people on those committee and the work that they do.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- i) Noted the appointment of second rotational Member appointments, required to ensure the Authority has a majority of constituent Members.
- ii) Approved the elected member nominations for the Audit and Standards Committee and approved a 12-month trial of a 4 elected Member committee.
- iii) Approved the continuing appointment of the existing two independent members for the Audit and Standards Committee pending a new recruitment process.
- iv) Approved the elected member nominations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- v) Approved the appointment of Mayor Oliver Coppard to the Transport for the North Board.
- vi) Approved Cllr Read as substitute member for the Transport for the North Board.
- vii) Endorsed seeking two Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee members from Sheffield, Barnsley or Doncaster.

18 **Revised Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules**

The Chief Financial Officer briefly introduced the paper and recommendations.

The report recommends the adoption of revised Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules for the MCA Group and ensures that these core Constitutional documents reflect the latest changes in the regulatory

environment whilst also supporting the integration process.

The Mayor offered it out to questions or comments from members.

RESOLVED: That members:

1. Approved the adoption across the Group of the revised Financial Regulations
2. Approved the adoption across the Group of the revised Contract Procedure Rules

19 **Appointment of an Interim Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service**

M Swales left the room and the meeting for this item.

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced this paper and the recommendations within it.

The paper seeks approval to appoint M Swales as Interim Chief Executive Officer and Head of Paid Service and Combined Authority Returning Officer with effect from the 1st July 2022.

The Mayor offered it out to questions or comments from members.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- i) Approved the appointment of M Swales on an interim basis from 1st July 2022.
- ii) Delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and S73 Finance Officer the arrangements for this appointment.

The Mayor noted that he looked forward to working with M Swales.

20 **Delegated Authority Report**

RESOLVED: That members noted the decisions and delegations made.

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

Signed

Name

Position

Date