

## Mayoral Combined Authority Board

04 June 2024

### Mayoral Manifesto and Priorities

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**Is the paper exempt from the press and public?** No

**Reason why exempt:** Not applicable

**Purpose of this report:** Discussion

**Is this a Key Decision?** No

**Has it been included on the Forward Plan?** No

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**Director Approving Submission of the Report:**

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**Executive Summary**

This report details the Manifesto commitments made by the elected Mayor ahead of his election earlier this month and an indication of some short-term priorities for action.

**What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?**

The Mayor's Plan for South Yorkshire sets out his commitments to ensure the safety of the region's communities, to provide genuine choice of travel options and a more connected transport network, to transform South Yorkshire to be the healthiest region in the country, to support and strengthen our communities, to build a cleaner and greener region; and to develop a bigger and better economy through his Plan for Good Growth.

**Recommendations**

The Board is asked to:

1. Note the content of this report.
2. Receive a further report at a future meeting which sets out work undertaken on plans to deliver the Mayor's manifesto commitments.

3. Endorse the proposal to extend the appointment of the Head of Paid Service/Chief Executive for a period up to 31st March 2025 and approve the commencement of the recruitment process to appoint a permanent Head of Paid Service/Chief Executive at the appropriate time.
4. Endorse the appointment of Rebecca Brookes as Monitoring Officer for the Combined Authority with effect from August 2024

### **Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel**

N/A

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Mayor's priorities as set out in the Manifesto outline a clear direction for the Mayoralty. These are structured around six specific themes:
  - Safer Communities
  - South Yorkshire's Transport Network
  - A Healthier South Yorkshire
  - Supporting and Strengthening our communities
  - Plan for Good Growth
  - A Cleaner, Greener South Yorkshire
- 1.2 Notably, this Manifesto encompasses new commitments around crime and justice, following the transfer of Police and Crime Commissioner functions to the Mayor at this election.
- 1.3 The Mayor has also set out 10 immediate priorities in his Manifesto literature:
  - Tram extension and transport integration
  - Free travel pilot for under 18s
  - Active travel schools plan
  - Make South Yorkshire the best place in the world for advanced manufacturing with an innovation corridor stretching across the region,
  - SY Confidence Board
  - South Yorkshire Big Clean
  - Plant 1.4m trees
  - Build on beds for babies –with 'every child a reader'
  - South Yorkshire Narrative
  - Zero tolerance approach to knife crime

## **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 There are a number of commitments which build on existing work and programmes that the MCA delivers, such as delivering the Plan for Good Growth, progressing the bus franchising assessment through to final decision within 12 months, building on the pioneering Beds for Babies and Working Win schemes, continuing progress towards the Mayor's Million Trees target, securing funding for the next stage of the 'Connected by Water' flood programme and delivering investment and jobs through the region's designation as the UK's first Investment Zone.

- 2.2 There are also a number of new commitments for developing specific strategies such as a regional cancer strategy, delivering new programmes such as the South Yorkshire talent identification programme, appointing new advisory groups and Commissioners such as an Equalities Commissioner and extending engagement with communities and stakeholders, for example through a Youth Climate Assembly.
- 2.3 On his first day in office, the Mayor set out his priorities for a transformed public transport network and announced:
- A commitment to start rolling out an integrated public transport system across South Yorkshire which connects buses, Supertram and active travel, by 2028
  - A decision on bus reform to be taken within 12 months
  - Plans for Supertram extensions to be set out in 2025 and put to initial public consultation, ahead of proposals being taken to Government
  - Doncaster / Sheffield Airport Sustainable Aviation Hub development to progress alongside plans to re-open the airport
  - A pledge to fully involve local people and ensure communities shape plans for South Yorkshire's integrated public transport network
- 2.4 The MCA Executive Team will be working closely with the Mayor to develop a detailed plan with a set of prioritised actions to deliver this manifesto. This plan will be driven by the themes and priorities as set out in the Mayor's manifesto and will inform detailed discussions with Portfolio Leads.
- 2.5 Due to the newly integrated Police and Crime Commissioner functions, the need to ensure the new tram operation is embedded within the organisation, and to support the work of the Mayor and Leaders in setting out the priorities of the new mayoralty, Board is asked to endorse the proposal to extend the appointment of the Head of Paid Service/Chief Executive for a period up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and approve the commencement of the recruitment process to appoint a permanent Head of Paid Service/Chief Executive at the appropriate time.
- 2.6 Earlier this year, the present Monitoring Officer advised the Chief Executive of his intention to stand down. Following a successful recruitment process, a strong candidate was identified and offered the role. The Board are asked to join the Chief Executive in thanking the outgoing monitoring officer for his service and is asked to endorse that appointment with effect from August 2024.

### **3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal**

- 3.1 At this stage there are no alternative options to consider.

### **4. Consultation on Proposal**

- 4.1 n/a

### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 n/a

## **6. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice**

6.1 n/a

## **7. Legal Implications and Advice**

7.1 Legally the MCA has to appoint a Head of Paid Service and a Monitoring Officer (as 2 of the 3 statutory officers) the recruitment process undertaken for the Monitoring Officer role and the process to be undertaken to replace the Head of Paid service will meet the requirements of s.7 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in terms of appointment on merit.

## **8. Human Resources Implications and Advice**

8.1 n/a

## **9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice**

9.1 N/A

## **10. Climate Change Implications and Advice**

10.1 Given the prominence of net-zero in the Mayor's manifesto, climate change implications will be given consideration throughout the delivery of the Mayor's agenda.

## **11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice**

11.1 N/A

## **12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice**

12.1 The communications and marketing team will work closely with the Mayor to ensure his priorities are appropriately shared with the public who have elected him.