

Mayoral Combined Authority Board

Tuesday, 04 June 2024

Nominations and Appointments to Committees 2024/2025

Is the paper exempt from the press and public? No

Reason why exempt: Not applicable

Purpose of this report: Governance

Is this a Key Decision? No

Has it been included on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions? Not a Key Decision

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

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Report Author(s):

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Executive Summary

This Report seeks approval of nominations submitted by Constituent Members to the MCA's Boards and Committees for the 2024/25 municipal year, as required by the MCA Constitution.

It also seeks nominations sought by Transport for the North to its Committees and Boards for 2024/25.

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

Appointments to these committees will ensure that the MCA and partner Boards can function effectively and make decisions that have a positive impact on South Yorkshire's communities.

Recommendations

That the Board:

1. Note the appointment of second rotational Member appointments, required to ensure the Authority has a majority of constituent Members.
 2. Approve the elected member nominations for the Audit and Standards Committee.
 3. Approve the continuing appointment of the existing two independent members for the Audit and Standards Committee.
 4. Approve the appointment of the Joint Independent Audit Committee Chair as a non-voting member of the Audit, Standards and Risk Committee.
 5. Approve the elected member nominations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
 6. Approve the appointment of Mayor Oliver Coppard to the Transport for the North Board and subsequently the Rail North Committee and Transport for the North General Purposes Committee.
 7. Approve the appointment of Cllr Chris Read as Vice-Chair of the Enhanced Partnership Board.
 8. Approve the appointment of Cllr Chris Read as substitute member for the Transport for the North Board and subsequently General Purposes Committee.
 9. Approve expressions of interest for nominations from Constituent members to the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee.
 10. Approve expressions of interest for nominations from Constituent members to the Transport for the North Audit and Governance Committee
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Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

None.

1. Background

1.1 Appointments to MCA Boards and committees are made on an annual basis in line with the MCA Constitution

1.2 Rotational Members:

As required by primary legislation, which dictates that constituent member authorities must have a voting majority on the Mayoral Combined Authority, the Authority has agreed to appoint two second rotational Member appointments to meet this requirement.

The principle of appointing rotational Members will be adhered to until there is any amendment to the primary legislation. Rotational Members do not attend Authority meetings unless directed.

For 2024/25 the rotational members will be appointed from City of Doncaster Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Audit, Standards and Risk Committee

The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2016 prescribes a number of matters determining how the Combined Authority must make arrangements for an Audit Committee including the need for political proportionality and the appointment of at least one independent person. At present there are two Independent Persons appointed whose terms expire in October 2025 and March 2026 respectively. Therefore, no recruitment is required for new appointments at this time.

The Authority must appoint such a number of members of each of the constituent councils to an Audit Committee, so that the members of the committee taken as a whole reflect, so far as reasonably practicable, the balance of political parties for the time being prevailing among members of the constituent councils when taken together. Following the May 2024 local elections, the political balance required on the Audit Standards and Risk Committee has changed. The Labour Party are allocated 3 seats, Liberal Democrats allocated 1 seat, and all others allocated no seats.

A Chair will be appointed by the Committee following receipt of all nominations.

To support the collaboration required between the Audit, Standards and Risk Committee and the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC), which is a requirement of the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011, and plays a key role in enhancing public trust and confidence in the governance of the police and crime functions exercised by the Mayor and South Yorkshire Police, it is proposed that the Chair of the JIAC is appointed as a non-voting member of the Audit, Standards and Risk Committee.

Nominations, received by the time of publishing, for the Audit and Standards Committee are included in the appendix.

2.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee

As determined by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009; The Cities and Local Devolution Act 2016 and The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 (SI 67) a number of matters are prescribed in respect of the membership and chairing arrangements of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Combined Authority must appoint such a number of members of each of the constituent councils to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, so that the members of the committee, taken as a whole reflect so far as reasonably practicable, the balance of political parties for the time being prevailing among members of the constituent councils when taken together. Non-Labour Member appointees are sought initially from the districts with the largest political minorities. Following the May 2024 local elections, the political balance required on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is as follows. The Labour Party are allocated 6 seats, Liberal Democrats allocated 2 seats, Conservative Party allocated 1 seat, Green Party allocated 1 seat, and all others allocated no seats.

The Chair of the Committee will be a councillor from a different political party to the Mayor, and will be appointed by the Committee following receipt of all nominations.

Nominations, received by the time of publishing, for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the possible candidates for Chair are set out in the appendix.

2.3 Enhanced Partnership Board

The purpose of the Enhanced Partnership Board is to oversee the delivery of the South Yorkshire Enhanced Partnership Plan, the South Yorkshire Enhanced Partnership Scheme for Buses and any further enhanced partnership schemes made in accordance with the Transport Act 2000.

The Board Terms of Reference state that the Chair of the Board will be the Mayor, and the Vice Chair will be a Local Authority Leader. This report seeks approval to appoint Cllr Read as the Vice Chair of the Board.

2.4 Appointments to Outside Bodies – Transport for the North

Transport for the North (TfN) requires a number of nominations from each of its Constituent Authorities, which will be approved at its AGM on 18th June 2024.

This report seeks approval to appoint Mayor Oliver Coppard to the TfN Board and formally re-appoint Cllr Read as the substitute member. Through this appointment Mayor Coppard and Cllr Read will also represent the Combined Authority on the TfN Partnership Board, Rail North Committee and TfN General Purposes Committee.

The main Member of the TfN Board must be the Mayor. The Members and substitute of the Rail North Committee, Partnership Committee and General Purposes Committee must be the same nominees as to the TfN Board, but can be either the TfN Board Member, or the substitute.

The role of the appointed Members acting as the TfN Board is specified in the TfN constitution as:

- Collectively be the ultimate policy makers of TfN,
- Bring the views of their communities into TfN's decision making process,
- Maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics,

In carrying out the business of TfN, will observe the Code of Conduct for members adopted by their appointing Authority.

In addition, the Combined Authority is entitled to appoint a member and substitute member to TfN scrutiny committee. The purpose of the Committee is to scrutinise the decisions recommended for approval by the Transport for the North Board and to make recommendations in relation to transport in the area. Members cannot be the members appointed to the TfN Board above, but may be any member of the constituent authority.

The Combined Authority is also entitled to appoint a member to the TfN Audit and Governance Committee. 6 seats on this Committee are filled by Members drawn from the TfN's Constituent Authorities.

All expressions of interest received in TfN Audit and Scrutiny Committees are noted in the appendix.

2.5 Member Induction and Development

The MCA is committed to continuously developing the quality of the relationships and collaboration with its Board members, ensuring that they are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to be able to fully engage in the delivery of the MCA's business.

Members will undergo a structured approach to member training, delivered through an ongoing programme of activities, including:

- Receipt of a member induction handbook and appointment letter which include a commitment to core MCA policies and procedures (Code of Conduct, Expenses Declaration and Registers of Interest)
- Engagement with a programme of core introductory sessions with Statutory Officers and Executive Directors, and on SYMCA's core strategies and procedures, specifically through a welcome and induction session on Tuesday 18th June.
- Undertaking in-year surveying to identify and address specific learning and development needs.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 Option 1

Approve all nominations submitted by Local Authorities.

3.2 Option 1 Risks and Mitigations

Not applicable to this report.

3.3 Option 2

Seek new nominations for some or all positions on Committees.

3.4 Option 2 Risks and Mitigations

Failure to confirm all Committee nominations may lead to delay to Statutory Committees meeting, or quoracy issues at meetings.

3.5 Recommended Option

Option 1

4. Consultation on Proposal

4.1 MCA Executive Team has consulted with Local Authorities and Transport for the North regarding the appointments required.

5. **Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**
 - 5.1 Nominations will come into effect immediately.

6. **Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice**
 - 6.1 There are no financial implications associated with the appointments other than the agreed allowance made to independent members of the Audit and Standards Committee.

7. **Legal Implications and Advice**
 - 7.1 The membership requirements of all Boards and Committees is determined by the Constitution and the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (and regulations made there under).

8. **Human Resources Implications and Advice**
 - 8.1 There are no human resources implications relating to these appointments.

9. **Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice**
 - 9.1 The composition of the Boards is determined by the nominations made by Local Authorities.

10. **Climate Change Implications and Advice**
 - 10.1 An Impact Assessment is not required for this activity.

11. **Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice**
 - 11.1 There are no information and communication technology implications relating to this activity.

12. **Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice**
 - 12.1 There are no communications and marketing implications relating to this activity.

List of Appendices Included:

- A. Nominations from Local Authorities

Background Papers:

MCA Constitution