

1st June 2020

Decisions taken under Urgency Provisions

Purpose of Report

This paper reports the decisions taken under the urgency provisions within the Combined Authority Constitution (Part 5A, Paragraph 16).

Thematic Priority

Not applicable.

Freedom of Information and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

This paper and any appendices will be made available under the Combined Authority Publication Scheme. This scheme commits the Authority to make information about how decisions are made available to the public as part of its normal business activities.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the decisions taken under the urgency provisions within the Combined Authority Constitution (Part 5A, Paragraph 16) due to the cancellation of the Combined Authority meeting 23rd March 2020 and the Grant offer to support Supertram operations made by the Department of Transport (DfT) 7th May 2020.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Due to the introduction of social distancing measures as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Combined Authority meeting scheduled to take place 23rd March 2020 was cancelled. In addition, on 7th May the Department for Transport offered the MCA an operational revenue support grant for the Supertram system.
- 1.2 This paper reports the decisions taken under the urgency provisions within the Combined Authority Constitution (Part 5A, Paragraph 16).

2. Proposal and justification

- 2.1 Part 5A, paragraph 16 empowers the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer individually to take any action which is required as a matter of urgency in the interests of the Authority, after consultation (where practicable) with the Chair of the Authority or the Chair of an appropriate committee (including, where required, the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee), on behalf of and within the powers and duties of the Authority or its Committees.

Further to the cancellation of the Combined Authority meeting 23rd March and the offer of a grant from the DfT for Supertram support, this provision was invoked due to the need to take urgent decisions. The following urgent decisions were taken:

2.2 Group Finance Director

- Following a full recruitment process an urgent decision was required regarding the appointment of Gareth Sutton as Group Finance Director as it was not feasible to wait until the next MCA meeting to make the job offer.

2.3 Transforming Cities Fund grant

- An urgent decision was required regarding the acceptance of the Transforming Cities Fund grant. The grant needed to be accepted prior to the date of the next MCA meeting as not accepting the grant could have resulted in losing the funding.
- The paper also sought approval of a new approach to enable earlier release of scheme development costs in order to mitigate the risks associated with the development and delivery of large schemes.

2.4 Supertram

- Acceptance of operational revenue support grant for Supertram for a 12 week period from 17th March arising as a result of the impacts of Covid 19. An urgent decision was required as the grant needed to be accepted prior to the date of the next MCA meeting. Not accepting the grant could have resulted in losing the funding.

3. Consideration of alternative approaches

- 3.1** South Yorkshire Leaders were consulted regarding the use of the urgency provision in relation to 2.2 and 2.3.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial

The urgent decisions were required to secure the grants being offered and not taking the decisions could have had negative financial impacts.

4.2 Legal

There are no specific legal implications arising from the contents of this report. The grant offers are subject to conditions that the MCA and other grant recipients will need to comply with.

4.3 Risk Management

Invoking urgency provisions ensured there was no unnecessary delay to MCA business which may have impacted on the ability to meet statutory requirements and to progress strategic objectives.

Not accepting grant offers risked the grant offers being withdrawn and funding lost.

4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

There are no specific equality, diversity and social inclusion implications of this report. The recruitment process followed was a fair/open and transparent process.

The grant funding to be received will have positive equality implications by improving and retaining public transport for all users.

5. Communications

- 5.1** The decisions taken have been published on the SCR website.

6. Appendices/Annexes

- 6.1** None.

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

Other sources and references: