

## 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



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### Present:

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

### In Attendance:

Dr Dave Smith	Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service	SYMCA Executive Team
Dr Ruth Adams	Deputy Chief Executive	SYMCA Executive Team
Stephen Edwards	Corporate Director of Public Transport	South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
Damian Allen	Interim Chief Executive, Doncaster MBC	Doncaster BMC
Sharon Kemp	Chief Executive, Rotherham MBC	Rotherham MBC
Sarah Norman	Chief Executive, Barnsley MBC	Barnsley MBC
Martin Swales	Interim Director of Transport, Housing, Infrastructure and Planning	SYMCA Executive Team
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
Kate Josephs	Sheffield City Council
Huw Bowen	Chesterfield BC
Karen Hanson	Bolsover and North East Derbyshire Councils

Jim Dillon  
Mike Thomas  
Stephen Batey  
Gill Callingham  
Paul Wilson

SYMCA Executive Team  
SYMCA Executive Team  
SYMCA Executive Team  
NE Derbyshire District Council  
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 that there were no apologies.

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 stated that 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.

M Swales declared an interest to the item entitled 'appointment of an interim Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service'. He advised that he would step out of 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 £10.5billion of SYPA funds could be better invested to support South Yorkshire businesses and link with the policies promoted by the Mayor?'*

He added that the group (South Yorkshire Free from Fossils) is disappointed that despite the climate emergency declared a few years ago and stated that they have £200million invested in fossil fuels, including Shell. He continued that the group has looked at what SYPA have invested in, they believe that less than 1% of it is invested in South Yorkshire and it is his belief that the workers in SY should have their pensions invested in SY. His finished by stating that he believes that across the political spectrum there has been support for the items he proposes and that there are plenty of investment opportunities within the 'green' arena that are based in South Yorkshire.

The Mayor began by stating that he thinks it's a great question and he agrees with the sentiment behind it. He 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. He will be happy to update Gordon and the public on these when he is able to.

Q.2 G Arthur (South Yorkshire Freedom Riders) introduced himself, asked his question and 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?'*

He added that the passes alleviate stress on the NHS and social care as people aren't deteriorating in their own homes but are encouraged to get out and engage in their wider community, with some even volunteering across the region. He asked if the pass could include train travel and stressed that this is particularly important as they have a toilet on board and are a lot warmer than other forms of travel, as well as linking across South and West Yorkshire and questioned whether it was necessary for there to be a curfew by 11pm. He added that he believed there was not an adequate amount of public consultation about the changes. He concluded by stating he believes there needs to be a more generalised view about how saving money in one area, for example within the MCA, may increase spending in another area, such as social care.

The Mayor responded by stating that the Freedom Riders were one of the first groups he came and 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 and that the MCA has previously considered the reinstatement of free rail travel for elderly concession pass holders but unfortunately it is unaffordable in the current financial state, but we do want to consider other options including those he has mentioned such as an annual payment.

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 G Arthur with colleagues.

**ACTION:** The Mayor to discuss the market research that was conducted by MCA with colleagues and have a conversation with G Arthur following this.

He stated that on the issue of allowing elderly concession pass holders to travel before 9.30am during weekdays, this restriction to off peak times during the working week is specified nationally in the Transport Act. He added that the additional funds required are not currently possible with the MCAs current funding, but this option remains on our list of possible policy options that is constantly under review.

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 added that she is very pleased that the mayor agreed to meet with the group two weeks after his election and they had a fruitful conversation. She is also pleased he came out to speak to the group outside the MCA in the morning prior to the MCA Board meeting and signed a pledge board.

F Postlethwaithe went onto explain that when she met the Mayor, she handed over a dossier of complaints the group have received from members of the public and went on to read a similar complaint she received via email the day prior to the meeting. She believes this demonstrates the importance that the buses are improved so we have a bus service to be proud of and that works for everybody.

The Mayor thanked F Postlethwaithe and her colleague M Potham for taking the time to come into the MCA and talk to him and colleagues. 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 took one of the first formal steps in the franchising assessment by requesting regional bus operators share six years of their patronage, performance, and financial data which will allow the MCA to get on with the work required to assess the benefits and risks of franchising in SY and added that a Bus Franchising Manager has been appointed. A letter was also issued to all Bus Operators in SY advising them of the MCA's intention to take forward franchising assessment work and he will be able to advise on specific timelines once the external advisors are on board.

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 mayors 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 have been organised in such a way so we 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 commented on how SY's cultural and creative sectors are among the most valuable assets to the region and the Art, Culture and Heritage Project Direct 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 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 continued that he understands that what the MCA can do is limited but that there are some things, such as aiding with commissioning training so that the current 1 to 2-year delay in solar panel installations can be decreased and it would provide local jobs. He added that the UK currently imports turbine blades, and this is something that could be done here in SY, 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 SY and to ensure there is green and immediately available energy in SY. He noted that there are some good projects already undertaken in SY including Sheffield Renewables and Barnsley supporting renewable energy in its social housing.

The Mayor summarised with his own personal view. He agrees that SY 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 in more detail.

## 10 **Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2022**

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. He commented that the South Yorkshire Mayor has hit the ground running since his election success, particularly in his engagement with local communities.

The Mayor is grateful for the paper being brought together by officers and the work already being undertaken and offered his thanks to leaders for their support when creating the manifesto.

Cllr Fox welcomed the new Mayor. He questioned the role of the Active Travel Commissioner and added that in Sheffield are they keen on bringing communities with them on their implemented green travel agenda rather than enforcing it upon them. He asked the Mayor what he believes the Commissioner will bring to the region. The Mayor agreed that this needs to be

done with the communities, not to the communities. He has spoken to many people who are in the sector and work on these projects daily, is that the Active Travel Commissioners did a lot for the region and moved the projects forward and so he is keen to get a replacement for that role.

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.

He stated that a 3-year allocation has been announced but the fund itself is expected to continue long after that and has given £46 million to South Yorkshire. Around £7million of this will be going to 'Multiply', an adult numeracy programme. The remaining £39million will go to three investment priorities- communities and place, local business, and people and skills.

MCA is the lead authority and must organise a response investment plan and submit a plan to national government by early August. This plan has to set out how we intent to manage the funding for each area and how we will assess and approval any applications, whilst reporting to central government. The interventions are set out very broadly in the Government documents, the MCA has to identify which ones we intend to us and what outcomes we expect to get.

The paper proposes that the South Yorkshire Mayor and MCA Chief Executive have conversations with each local authority leader and Chief Executive to arrive at a consensus in terms of what will be prioritised and how they will be weighted in the investment plan submitted. The Director of Corporate Policy noted that there is a large role the MCA has to play in terms of engagement with local communities, business and group and their views need to be taken into account.

Cllr Houghton noted that the funding is welcome however it is not the level of funding we would have got if we were still in Europe. He mentioned his disappointed that it is just a 3-year plan compared to the 7-year plan offered with European funding. He added that there needs to be pressure kept on central government in regard to all the funding offered and ensuring it continues for longer than the 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 ad additional principles to be applied locally.
- iii) Agree that the Chief Executives should oversee an including 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.

He 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 to October, there remain a number of services in SY that are commercially unsustainable.

The Mayor opened it up to questions from members.

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 SY and ensuring it is funded properly. The Corporate Director of Public Transport agreed.

Cllr Houghton added his agreement to the report and noted that currently we are looking at a cliff-edge in October unless central government come up with a solution between now and then. 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.

The Mayor stated his commitment to making bus services better and that this is not possible with the current financial situation with government so much of the work he will be doing over the next few months will be related to this.

Mayor Jones stressed that we would see social exclusion if there were a reduction in bus services and this is not an option. She stated that this is not levelling up but driving down.

**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 the extending the benefits of young persons travel to under 18-year-olds to those under 21. This will end on the 20<sup>th</sup> June and this paper seeks to extend the scheme.

Cllr Read noted that he was pleased that we can continue this and offered his support to the scheme. Mayor Coppard echoed Cllr Read's comments.

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 Deputy Chief Executive explained the requirements for the MCA to set out an Integration plan with the LEP Board and submit this to government by the end of July, or at the latest the end of January 2023.

The Mayor offered it out to questions and comments. He added that it is his belief that a strong relationship between the MCA and private sector is vital to the working of the MCA.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- i) Has considered and 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) Considered and agreed the timeline and engagement plan for development
- iii) Considered and agreed any further work members would like to commission officers to undertake prior to receipt of a draft plan.

## 16 **Programme Approvals**

The Chief Financial Officer briefly 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.

He added that the MCA Audit, Standards and Risk Committee had problems achieving quorum and the MCA was being asked to approve a reduction to the number of members from ten to four. This has come out of a recent effectiveness review and in consultation with the Chair of that committee.

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

Cllr Read is happy to support the recommendation for the membership on ASRC to decrease from 10 to 4 but has 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.

Members agreed to the recommendations in the report.

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

M Swales left 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022.
- ii) Delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive on discussion with the Monitoring Officer and S73 Finance Officer the arrangements for this appointment.

Mayor Coppard 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 .....