

To the Chair and Members of the COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE TO SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY'S TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. To appoint a Conservative Councillor, in accordance with the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority's (SCRCA) political balance requirements, as Doncaster Council's representative on the SCRCA's Transport Committee, following the recent resignation of Councillor Steve Cox from this body.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Council is asked to appoint a Conservative Councillor as a Member representative on the Transport Committee of the SCRCA to join the Council's other existing representatives on this body.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

3. As a Member Authority of the SCRCA, it is important that Doncaster Council also has a role in supporting the Transport Committee function within the Combined Authority.

BACKGROUND

4. At the meeting of Full Council on 7th March 2013, it was agreed that Doncaster Council would join the SCRCA, which became a legal entity on 1st April 2014. Since that time, the Council has appointed Member representatives to the SCRCA's Overview and Scrutiny, Transport and Audit Committees.
5. The membership of the SCRCA Transport Committee is subject to political proportionality across the 4 South Yorkshire districts. Currently, this equates to Doncaster Council being entitled to nominate 3 representatives (voting members) on this body, i.e. 2 x Labour and 1 x Conservative. Following the recent resignation of Councillor Steve Cox, the Council is asked to appoint a replacement Member representative from the Conservative Group, to join the remaining two representatives (Councillors Joe Blackham and Bill Mordue).

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6. To appoint a Conservative Member representative to the SCRCA Transport Committee (recommended option).

7. To not appoint a Conservative Member representative to the SCRCA Transport Committee (not recommended). This would not meet the political proportionality requirements across the Combined Authority or enable Doncaster to be fully represented on this body.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

8. It is important that Doncaster MBC is represented on the Combined Authority's Transport Committee to enable Doncaster to contribute towards the delivery of the Transport Committee's functions.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

9. This report has no direct impact on the Council's Key Outcomes. Indirectly, clear responsibility and effective Constitutional provisions for making appointments to Outside Bodies contributes towards the Council's outcome 'Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance', thus demonstrating that effective governance arrangements are in place.

RISKS & ASSUMPTIONS

10. Appointees to outside bodies will need to act strategically and ensure issues of significance are effectively reported back to the Authority where appropriate.
11. During 2015/16 work was undertaken to review the Governance of the Council's arrangements and relationship with outside bodies and partnerships. One of the key elements of this work was to ensure that representatives appointed to Outside Bodies were clear of their roles and responsibilities. A particular risk exists where representatives may act beyond their powers or potentially commit the Council to unauthorised actions or expenditure. To mitigate this risk training is provided for all individuals appointed to outside bodies to raise awareness and provide clarity and understanding of their roles. In addition, the Council may also provide indemnity insurance for individuals against personal liability, provided they act reasonably, and where this is not provided by the relevant partner organisation.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The SCRCA was established by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. As set out in the body of the report, the membership of the SCRCA Transport Committee is subject to political proportionality across the 4 South Yorkshire districts and only a Conservative councillor may be appointed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no specific technology implications arising from this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no specific equality implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

16. Consultation has taken place with the Conservative Group in respect of making a nomination to the SCRCA Transport Committee, prior to the Council meeting taking place.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Council – 13th May 2016 – Council Appointments to Outside Bodies 2016-17.

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