
Meeting	Cabinet
Date	3 December 2013
Present	Councillors Alexander (Chair), Cunningham-Cross, Levene, Looker, Merrett, Simpson-Laing (Vice-Chair) and Williams
In attendance	Councillors Funnell and Steward
Apologies	Councillor Crisp

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

81. Consultation Response regarding Combined Authority

Members considered a report which updated Cabinet on developments since endorsement in May of the final governance Review and Scheme for a Combined Authority (CA) for the area of West Yorkshire, including Leeds, with the City of York Council proposed as a 'non constituent member'. A Government consultation document, attached at Annex A of the report had been published on 7 November 2013 and Members were asked to consider a formal response to the constitutional arrangements and functions of a Combined Authority for the area of West Yorkshire.

The report reviewed the consultation paper and proposed a response for submission by 2 January 2014. It was noted that the partnership approach would offer the greatest potential maximising the level of transport funding for York and that an £83m package of transport schemes was being progressed for the city through the West Yorkshire Plus York Transport Fund.

It was proposed that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Council's legal team and the Leader would make a formal response and continue discussions for the city's progression to becoming a full member of the CA.

The Leader referred to the opportunities arising from membership of the CA and access to additional funding for

transport schemes. He confirmed that the decision would form a recommendation to the Council meeting on 12 December for final agreement.

Cabinet Members endorsed and reiterated the potential benefits and importance of membership in helping solve the congestion and transport challenges in the city and surrounding areas.

Following further discussion it was

Recommended: That Council be recommended to:

- i) Welcome the publication of the Government consultation paper which invites the submission of views by Thursday 2 January 2014;
- ii) Endorse the proposed constitutional arrangements and functions of the Combined Authority as set out in the consultation paper;
- iii) Approve the proposed approach to responding to the consultation;
- iv) Authorise the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Leader) to make a formal response to the Department for Communities and Local Government confirming the Council's support for the establishment of the Combined Authority and take such other steps as are considered appropriate to facilitate the preparation of the Order; and
- iv) Note the next steps and timetable and in particular that providing Government is satisfied that the proposals for a Combined Authority for West Yorkshire command wide local support and also meet the required statutory conditions, the Secretary of State will invite Parliament to approve the Order establishing the Combined Authority.

- v) Authorise further work and discussions with the Combined Authority regarding any legislative developments that would allow York to become a full member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority given the strong economic and transport case.
- vi) Authorise further work and discussions with the Combined Authority regarding the functional arrangements of the Combined Authority to ensure any changes in the medium to longer term are in York's best interests.

Reason: To allow the further development of the Combined Authority to ensure the future economic prosperity of York by accessing additional key transport funding opportunities.

82. Improving Public Convenience Facilities across the City

Consideration was given to a report which outlined details of a scheme to improve the standard of the city's public toilets, replacing many of the older facilities with modern, attractive public toilets to enhance the city centre, whilst delivering a revenue saving to the Council.

These improvements supported the Reinvigorate York programme and the new Interim Tourist Strategy in enhancing the public realm and improving the quality and excellence of the public visitor welcome. The proposal also achieved the 2013/14 Budget Council £75k saving following a review of public conveniences across the city.

A procurement exercise had been undertaken and a new supplier identified to refurbish and upgrade facilities at the sites detailed in the Annex to the report.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that the new facilities would provide major accessibility improvements and that the St Sampson's Square facility would no longer be required. Members also noted that further work would be undertaken with

local businesses to increase interest in a community toilet scheme.

Consideration was then given to the following three options:

1. Continue with the procurement exercise and award the contract as outlined above
2. Re-start the procurement process and reduce the tender specification to find a better proposal; in reality this would mean reducing the number of facilities, or opening times, etc.
3. Cancel the proposal and continue with existing arrangement. In order to meet the budget savings extra funding would be required or facilities would need to be closed

Recommended: i) That Council be asked to allocate £663k capital funding to undertake the refurbishment of the toilets, this capital to be funded by annual payments from the existing revenue budget for public toilets.

ii) That, subject to the agreement of Council, a contract be awarded to the contractor who won the procurement exercise for £62k per year for fifteen years reflecting the aspects set out in paragraph 7 of the report.

Reason: To create excellent public toilets for York.

Cllr J Alexander, Chair
[The Meeting started At 5.30 pm and finished at 7.00 pm].