

LEEDS CITY REGION BUSINESS RATES JOINT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 28TH JANUARY, 2016

Present: Councillor D Green (City of Bradford MDC) (Chair),
Councillor D Sheard (Kirklees MC), Councillor R Cooper (Harrogate BC),
Councillor P Box (Wakefield MDC) Councillor J Blake (Leeds City Council)
and Councillor C Steward (City of York Council)

In Attendance: J Roney (WMDC) N Avison (HBC) S Stewart (CYC)
T Riordan (LCC), A Gay (LCC), J Grieve (LCC)

10 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

11 Late Items

There were no late items of business

12 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED – That, in accordance with Regulation 4 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public be excluded from the meeting during Consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as exempt on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information so designated as follows:-

Report entitled “Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool – Progress Report” as referred to in Minute No.18 was designated as exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3) because it contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It was considered in these circumstances that the public interest in maintaining the exemption from publication outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

13 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests made at the meeting.

15 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th November 2015 were approved as a true and correct record.

16 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no issues raised under matters arising

17 Representation on the Welcome to Yorkshire Board

In seeking a nomination from this Joint Committee to serve on the Welcome to Yorkshire Board, the Chair reported that Councillor Richard Cooper had expressed an interest in serving on the Board.

Councillor Cooper's nomination was seconded.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Richard Cooper be appointed as this Committee's representative on the Welcome to Yorkshire Board

18 Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool Progress Report

(Following the recent appointment of Councillor Cooper onto the Welcome to Yorkshire Board, Councillor Cooper declared an interest in respect of the proposed funding to Welcome to Yorkshire)

The Deputy Chief Executive of Leeds City Council submitted a report which provided: an updated projection for Pool income in 2015-16 from £3.6m to £4.1m, supplied a brief update on the implications for the Pool on the 2016 -17 Local Government Finance Settlement, and provided specific proposals around the funding of Welcome to Yorkshire in 2015/16 and 2016/17

In the discussion that ensued, the Chair referred to the local government, Business Rates Pools and the possibility of them ceasing to exist beyond 2019/20. It was suggested that there needed to be an understanding of the new system of 100% business rate retention and to identify potential risk in view of the volatility of business rates.

RESOLVED –

- (i) To approve the release of the final instalment of grant to Welcome to Yorkshire in 2015/16
- (ii) That subject to ongoing monitoring, approval be given to the provision of funding to Welcome to Yorkshire for 2016-17 of up to £200k for Members' subscriptions and £630k for specific activities

- (iii) That in consultation with Welcome to Yorkshire, a Joint press release be made which would include an acknowledgment of the contribution made by sponsors
- (iv) That Ron McMillan, Chair of Welcome to Yorkshire be invited to a future meeting of this Joint Committee
- (v) To note the revised income projections for the Pool as set out in section 3 of the submitted report,
- (vi) To note the implications for Pool Members of the 2016 -17 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement as set out in section 4 of the submitted report.
- (vii) That the Deputy Chief Executive of Leeds City Council be requested to prepare a report for a future meeting of this Joint Committee which provides an understanding of the new system of 100% business rate retention and identifies potential risk

19 Any Other Business

There were no issues raised under any other business

20 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

RESOLVED – To note that a date, time and venue for the next meeting of the Joint Committee will be determined at a later date.