

NORTH AND WEST YORKSHIRE BUSINESS RATES JOINT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 25TH MARCH, 2021

Present: Councillors: J Scullion (Calderdale MBC), S Hinchcliffe (City of Bradford MDC), G Turner (Kirklees MC), J Lewis (Leeds City Council), S Siddons (Scarborough Borough Council), P Widdowson (City of York) and D Jeffery (City of Wakefield MDC)

In Attendance: V Bradshaw (LCC), W Sampson (Harrogate Borough Council) N Warren (City of Wakefield MDC) A Taylor (WYCA), and J Grieve (LCC)

9 Election of Chair

Members were informed that Councillor Swift (Chair) had sent his apologies for today's meeting, in his absence an alternative Member was required to Chair the meeting.

Councillor S Hinchcliffe was nominated for the position of Chair, the nomination was seconded.

Upon being put to the vote:

RESOLVED – That Councillor S Hinchcliffe be elected as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

10 APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents

11 LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business identified.

12 EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items identified where it was considered necessary to exclude the press or public due to the confidential nature of the business to be considered.

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: K Aspden (City Of York) R Cooper, (Harrogate BC) C Les (North Yorkshire CC) S Pandor (Kirklees MC) and T Swift (Calderdale MBC)

Councillors: J Scullion (Calderdale MBC), G Turner (Kirklees MC) and P Widdowson (City of York) were in attendance as substitute Members.

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest made at the meeting.

15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th September 2020.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th September 2020 be accepted as a true and correct record.

16 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no issues raised under matters arising.

17 NORTH AND WEST YORKSHIRE BUSINESS RATES POOL FINANCIAL REPORT

The Chief Officer, Financial Services, Leeds City Council submitted a report which sets out:

- a) The context in which the 2020/21 North and West Yorkshire Business Rates Pool is set up;
- b) The current position of the North and West Yorkshire Pool, including the estimated 2020/21 financial position and the latest income projections;
- c) The allocation of projected income to member authorities for 2020/21;
- d) That the Pool will be dissolved on 31st March 2021.

In the discussion that followed Members welcomed the report, commenting that it provided a well laid out synopsis.

Referring to “Risks to Pool Funding”, Paragraph 4 of the submitted report referred, Members asked if there was any risk of breaching the safety net, could any assurances be provided.

Members were informed that all partner authorities had provided robust details around financial forecasting, the best assessment at this stage was that safety net payments would not be called upon.

RESOLVED –

- a) To note the context of the 2020/21 North and West Yorkshire Business Rates Pool as described in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the submitted report;
- b) To note the Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference set out in Paragraph 2 and Appendices A and B;
- c) To note the projected Pool income for 2020/21 as shown in Paragraph 3 and the risk of breaching safety net at Paragraph 4; and
- d) To note the projected Pool income for 2020/21 as shown in Paragraph 3 and the risk of breaching safety net at Paragraph 4; and
- e) To approve the allocation of estimated projected income to member authorities at Paragraph 5 and, with reference to the Pool being dissolved on 31st March 2021, that final income will be allocated after all member authorities receive final audited accounts, as noted at Paragraph 6.