

## **SCRUTINY BOARD (RESOURCES AND COUNCIL SERVICES)**

**FRIDAY, 10TH MAY, 2013**

**PRESENT:** Councillor P Grahame in the Chair

Councillors N Dawson, J Hardy, M Harland,  
C Macniven and R Wood

### **116 Chair's Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed everyone to an additional meeting of the Scrutiny Board (Resources and Council Services).

### **117 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests declared to the meeting.

### **118 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Bentley, J L Carter, R Grahame and A Lowe.

Notification had been received for Councillor M Harland to substitute for Councillor R Grahame.

### **119 Minutes - 22nd April 2013**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April be confirmed as a correct record.

### **120 Executive Board Minutes - 24th April 2013**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Executive Board held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013 be noted.

### **121 Review of Governance Arrangements in West Yorkshire**

The Chief Economic Development Officer presented to the Board a report setting out proposals towards establishing a West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

The following officers were in attendance:

- Tom Bridges – Chief Economic Development Officer, City Development
- Caroline Allen – Head of Development & Regulatory, Legal Services.

In brief summary, the key areas of discussion were:

- The role and responsibilities of a Combined Authority, particularly in relation to 'drawing down' funds from central government.
- The reasons why it was necessary to have a Combined Authority.
- The methodology by which the establishment of the Combined Authority will be agreed.
- The political membership of the Combined Authority, particularly the proportionality of places (and votes) between the constituent authorities.
- The determination of opposition positions on the Combined Authority.
- How the Combined Authority will be held to account through the Overview and Scrutiny process and the need for that function to be adequately resourced and supported.
- The manner in which infrastructure support funding was calculated.
- The need to keep the associated officer support infrastructure as efficient and as small as possible, using, where possible, existing resources across the participating authorities.
- The recognition that Leeds should play the major role in driving the Combined Authority's agenda.
- The inherent risks present in a joint venture of this nature.

**RESOLVED –**

- (i) To thank officers for their clear presentation
- (ii) To note the progress towards establishing a West Yorkshire Combined Authority
- (iii) To write to the Leader of Council outlining the Board's views on this and the draft scheme.

**122 Response to the Recommendations arising from Scrutiny Inquiry on Welfare Reform**

The Chief Officer Statutory Housing and Chief Officer Revenues and Benefits submitted a joint report setting out their responses to the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Board Inquiry on Welfare Reform Benefit Changes.

**RESOLVED –** To note the contents of the report and progress made to date.

**123 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED –** To note that this was the last meeting of the 2012/13 municipal year.

(The meeting concluded at 11.00am)