



## LEEDS CITY REGION BUSINESS RATES JOINT COMMITTEE

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Meeting to be held in Room 410, Wellington House, Wellington Street, Leeds, LS1 2DE on  
Thursday, 28th July, 2016 at 10.00 am

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### MEMBERSHIP

Susan Hunchcliffe	-	City of Bradford MDC
Tim Swift	-	Calderdale MBC
Richard Cooper	-	Harrogate Borough Council
David Sheard	-	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Judith Blake	-	Leeds City Council
Peter Box CBE	-	City of Wakefield MDC
Keith Aspden	-	City of York Council

# A G E N D A

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p><b>ELECTION OF CHAIR</b></p> <p>To seek nominations for the election of Chair.</p>	
2			<p><b>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.2 of the Access to Information Rules (in the event of an Appeal the press and public will be excluded)</p>	
3			<p><b>LATE ITEMS</b></p> <p>To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration.</p> <p>(The special circumstances shall be specified in the minutes).</p>	
4			<p><b>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC</b></p> <p>To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public</p>	
5			<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>To receive apologies for absence(If any)</p>	
6			<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>To disclose or draw attention to any disclosable pecuniary interests for the purposes of Section 31 of the Localism Act 2000 and paragraphs 13 -18 of the Members' Code of Conduct. Also to declare any other significant interests which the Member wishes to declare in the public interest, in accordance with paragraphs 19 - 20 of the Members' Code of Conduct.</p>	

7

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

1 - 4

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

(Copy attached)

8

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

To consider any matters arising from the minutes

9

10.4(3)

**LEEDS CITY REGION BUSINESS RATES POOL  
PROGRESS REPORT**

5 - 10

To consider a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, Leeds City Council, which sets out the provisional outturn for the LCR Pool 2015-16, provides an update on the financial position of Welcome to Yorkshire(WtY), puts forward proposals for funding specific activities to be carried out on behalf of Pool Members by WtY over the course of 2016-17; and the possible implications for the Pool of the 2017 business rates revaluation and the longer-term implications of the Government's 100% rates retention proposals.

(Report attached)

10

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

To consider any other business (If any)

11

**DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

To determine a date and time for the next meeting of the Joint Committee (If considered necessary)

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## 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

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting  
to be held on Date Not Specified

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> 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 appointed 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.

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