



Leicester  
City Council

Appendix 1

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND TOURISM SCRUTINY  
COMMISSION

Held: THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2015 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Willmott (Chair)  
Councillor Joshi (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Kitterick  
Councillor Dr Moore  
Councillor Porter

Councillor Rae Bhatia  
Councillor Riyait  
Councillor Sandhu

In Attendance:

Councillor Clarke – Assistant City Mayor (Energy and Sustainability)  
Sir Peter Soulsby – City Mayor  
Councillor Waddington – Assistant City Mayor (Jobs and Skills)

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Councillor Joshi (Vice-Chair) in the Chair

**28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence, but Councillor Willmott submitted an apology for lateness.

**29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**34. LEICESTER & LEICESTERSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY**

The Strategic Director for City Development and Neighbourhoods submitted a report outlining the proposal to establish a Combined Authority for Leicester and Leicestershire. He drew particular attention to the following points:-

- It was proposed that the Combined Authority would have concurrent powers to the nine constituent councils;
- The proposed voting arrangements were that each member would have one vote. A simple majority of votes would be needed for most recommendations to be agreed;
- When a proposal affected a specific local authority area, a Special Majority would be required to approve that proposal. This meant that a majority of those voting needed to be in favour, this majority to include the local authority for the area affected;
- The Combined Authority needed to have its own Overview and Scrutiny Committee and could not work through one operated by one of the constituent councils;
- The Combined Authority would include a representative from the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership, to ensure that business interests were represented; and
- This report would be considered at the Council meeting on 26 November 2015.

The City Mayor confirmed that member authorities would retain their current functions, with the Combined Authority establishing the strategic context within which these functions would operate. .

It was noted that it was not proposed that the Combined Authority would have a significant budget. The cost of establishing the Authority was estimated to be approximately £250,000, which was mainly the cost of officer time, and support to the Authority would be provided through the constituent authorities. It would not have a budget for commissioning services.

In response to a question, the City Mayor advised that no provision existed at present for allowances for Members on the Combined Authority. It was not anticipated that representatives from the City Council would claim separate allowances, as work with the Combined Authority was considered to be part of their normal work as a Councillor. The Strategic Director for City Development and Neighbourhoods confirmed that it was understood that none of the member authorities were proposing to pay separate Members' allowances for Combined Authority work.

The Commission noted that one of the Leicestershire members of parliament had suggested that this Combined Authority could be too small to be effective, so it should work with Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire authorities. Commission members expressed concern that, if the government was of the same view, time and resources could be wasted on preparing and submitting the current proposal.

The City Mayor advised that the possibility of the three counties working together had not been ruled out, but it was recognised that Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire were geographically close and had more joint interests with each other than with Leicester and Leicestershire. However, cross-boundary economic activity already was established and the proposed Combined Authority would continue to work very closely with neighbouring authorities, including the proposed combined authority for the Coventry and Warwickshire areas. The government had not indicated that the proposals for Leicester and Leicestershire were unrealistic, so constituent councils were considering them on the basis set out in the report.

AGREED:

That the report be noted.