



**Combined Authority Board: Decision Summary**  
**Meeting: Thursday, 6 February 2025**  
**Published: Friday, 7 February 2025**  
**Decision Review Deadline: Friday, 14 February 2025**

Any key decision/s set below will come into force and may be implemented after 5.00pm on the fifth clear working day after publication of the decision, unless they are called-in [see note on call in below], with the exception of any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.

## **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Sarah Conboy, with Councillor Sam Wakeford attending as substitute, and from Darryl Preston.

## **2 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 22 January 2025 were approved with a small amendment and signed by the Mayor. The action log was noted.

## **3 Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared at this point. Councillor Chris Boden declared an interest at agenda item 8 as a trustee of FACT Community Transport.

## **4 Announcements**

No announcements were made.

## **5 Public Questions**

Two public questions were received for the meeting. The questions and responses are published [here](#).

## **6 Petitions**

No petitions were received.

## **7 Forward Plan**

It was resolved to:

- A Approve the Forward Plan for February 2025

## **8 Bus Reform [KD2024/067]**

It was resolved to:

- A Note the completion of the bus reform consultation process, its extent and the responses received including the discussions and feedback from Transport and Infrastructure Committee and Overview & Scrutiny Committee in January 2025.
- B Note the Westco Consultation Report at Appendix 2
- C Approve the CPCA Consultation Response Report at Appendix 3.
- D To recommend to the Mayor that he makes a franchising scheme as set out at Appendix 5, complying with all associated statutory requirements
- E When the Mayor has decided whether or not to make a franchising scheme agree:
  - to adopt and publish the Combined Authority's response to the consultation, together with the Mayor's decision as the report to be published by the Combined Authority under section 123G (1) of the Transport Act 2000 (as

amended by the Bus Services Act 2017) (the “Act”);

- in accordance with section 123G(2) of the Act to give notice to the Traffic Commissioner

F If the Mayor decides to make a franchising scheme:

- to publish the scheme set out at Appendix 5 on behalf of the Mayor at the same time as the Westco Consultation Report (Appendix 2) and CPCA Consultation Response Report (Appendix 3) to be published under section 123G(1) of the Act;
- at the same time to publish a transitional notice in the terms set out in Appendix 6 and then within 14 days of the date upon which the transitional notice is published, to give notice to the Traffic Commissioner of its publication on behalf of the Mayor if the Mayor so decides (or alternatively CPCA) as required by the Public Service Vehicles (Registration of Local Services) (Franchising Schemes Transitional Provisions and Amendments) (England) Regulations 2018;
- to agree that, in conducting the procurement process for the provision of local services, the Combined Authority will facilitate the involvement of small and medium sized operators in the provision of local services as set out in the report “Bus Franchising: Facilitating the involvement of small and medium-sized operators” at Appendix 4 to enable compliance with section 123 G (3) of the Act;
- to commence with implementation and mobilisation of franchising, noting section 4.4 of this report (Next Steps in the event of a Mayoral decision to approve franchising).

G If the Mayor decides not to make a franchising scheme:

- to advance the process to implement an Enhanced Partnership in accordance with sections 138A to 138J of the Act, relevant statutory guidance and supporting legislation noting section 4.5 of this report (Next Steps in the event of a Mayoral decision not to make a franchising scheme).
- Approve the repurposing of the existing ‘development of bus franchising’ budget to be used for the initial development work for the Enhanced Partnership.

## **9a Further Education Cold Spots**

It was resolved to:

- A approve the proposed Grant Funding approach to spend the £4.5m Capital Investment
- B delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Skills and Employment, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, to enter into grant funding agreements with selected providers on behalf of the Combined Authority

## **9b Draft Adults Commissioning Strategy - KD2025/001**

It was resolved to:

- A approve the proposed Adult Skills Commissioning Strategy 2025-2028
- B approve the implementation of the three-year plan-led grant funding agreements for FE Colleges and Local Authorities and the WEA subject to DfE funding for the period 2025 – 2028.
- C approve the procurement of Independent Training Providers (ITPs) under contracts for services, subject to DfE funding.
- D approve contracts for services to be issued over 3 years (2025 – 2028) to bring them in line with grant funding agreements and support sustainability and capacity building within the sector.
- E delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Skills & Employment, in

consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, to enter into multi-year grant funding agreements and contracts for services for the Adult Skills Fund and Free Courses for Jobs Fund on behalf of the Combined Authority.

Notes:

- a) Statements in **bold type** indicate additional resolutions made at the meeting.
- b) Five Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may call-in a key decision of the Mayor, the Combined Authority Board or an Officer for scrutiny by notifying the Monitoring Officer, except for any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.

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