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Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority29th May 2026 11:00amAnnual MeetingAura, Bridgehead Business Park, HesslePRESENT:-

Mayor Luke Campbell, Councillors Dad, Handley and Tucker, D. Gent (Hull and East Yorkshire Skills Board Deputy Chair) (substituting for J. Adamson), and J. Speedy (Chair of the Hull and East Yorkshire Business Board).

IN ATTENDANCE:-

A. Menzies (Interim Chief Executive), T. Maione (Interim Monitoring Officer), J. Neilson (Interim Director of Finance), D. Gray (Interim Programme Director) and L. Hawkins (Democratic Services Officer).

APOLOGIES:-

J. Evison (Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside), Councillor Ross and J. Adamson.

Minute No.	Description/Decision	Action By/Deadline
PROCEDURAL ITEMS		
1.	<p>WELCOME FROM MAYOR</p> <p>The Mayor confirmed that Combined Authority's Local Growth Plan had been successfully launched at the UK Real Estate, Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKREiif). There had been positive feedback in relation to the plan and it was an example of what could be achieved when organisations worked together.</p> <p>The Mayor went on to congratulate the ward councillors that had been elected at the recent local elections held in Hull.</p>	

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2.	<p>TO CONFIRM (I) COMBINED AUTHORITY MEMBER APPOINTMENTS; (II) PORTFOLIO ROLES; (III) CO-OPTEE APPOINTMENTS; (IV) SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS; (V) SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>The Interim Monitoring Officer submitted a report which set out the governance arrangements in relation to the Authority's memberships.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the need for the Constituent Council members of the Combined Authority to appoint named substitutes. Members queried whether substitutes could act for either of their Constituent Council members to provide more flexibility. The Interim Monitoring Officer explained that the Constitution would need to be amended.</p> <p>The Interim Monitoring Officer confirmed that the Constituent Authorities had not yet named their appointments to the Overview and Scrutiny and Governance and Audit Committees and that the Authority's portfolio holders required confirmation by the Board.</p> <p>The Mayor invited the Portfolio Holders to provide an update on the work that had been undertaken over past 12 months.</p> <p>Councillor Tucker informed the Board that there had been a requirement to implement a number of Transport related policies and strategies; that the BSIP funding and powers had been passported back to the Constituent Authorities as the Combined Authority did not yet have the relevant structures in place; that it was intended that the following year the monies and powers would return to the Combined Authority; that the Authority had recently appointed a Programme Director for Transport, and that meetings between the Combined Authority and the Constituent Authorities took place regularly.</p> <p>Councillor Dad provided an update in relation to the Housing portfolio. She informed that Board that work had been undertaken in developing a housing development pipeline for Homes England; that the relevant accelerators had been identified; that she intended to undertake visits to proposed</p>	
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	<p>development sites; that the Strategic Place Partnership had been developed; that regular meetings with officers were taking place, and that the Authority was in a good position to move forward.</p> <p>Councillor Handley provided an update on the Investment portfolio. She informed that Board that there were some good investment opportunities being brought forward; that it was important that due diligence was undertaken in relation to any proposed investment projects; that she had been promoting the region both nationally and internationally; that the Authority had been very well received at UKREiiF and its tent had been full to capacity at times, and that the Authority had held its first Investment Board meeting.</p> <p>The Mayor explained that the Authority needed to have the relevant structures in place before it made any investment decisions and that it was important to achieve best value for money when public funding was being spent.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Tucker and seconded by Councillor Dad</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. That the Board confirms that the Leader and Deputy Leader of Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Councils as Combined Authority Members and the designation of the Leader of each Council as Lead Member for that Council; b. That the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner is confirmed as a Non-Constituent Member of the Authority; c. That the Chair of the Hull and East Yorkshire Skills Board and the Chair of the Hull and East Yorkshire Business Board are confirmed as Associate Members of the Combined Authority; d. That the Mayor be confirmed as the Authority's Portfolio Holder for Fit and Healthy; e. That Councillor Dad be confirmed as the Authority's Portfolio Holder for Housing; 	
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	<p>f. That Councillor Handley be confirmed as the Authority's Portfolio Holder for Investment;</p> <p>g. That Councillor Ross be confirmed as the Authority's Portfolio Holder for Skills;</p> <p>h. That Councillor Tucker be confirmed as the Authority's Portfolio Holder for Transport;</p> <p>i. That the Mayor be confirmed as the Authority's representative on the Board of Transport for the North, and</p> <p>j. That the Authority's Constitution is amended to allow substitute members to act in the absence of either of their Constituent Council Combined Authority Members.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Recommendations</u> To ensure HEYCA continues to have a governance framework in place to facilitate its operation in accordance with relevant applicable statutory requirements and its own constitution at all times, thereby enabling efficient operation.</p>	
3.	<p>DEPUTY MAYOR</p> <p>The Interim Monitoring Officer explained that the Authority was required to appoint a Deputy Mayor. The Authority was in a position where the Mayor was unable to appoint a political party colleague as his Deputy Mayor.</p> <p>Members were asked for approval to write to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to set out the Authority's position in relation to the appointment of a Deputy Mayor.</p> <p>Agreed – that the Board gives approval to the Interim Monitoring Officer to write to MHCLG to open a dialogue in relation to the Authority's position in appointing a Deputy Mayor.</p>	

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4.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>No declarations of interest were received in respect of the items that follow below.</p>	
5.	<p>MINUTES OF THE HEY COMBINED AUTHORITY HELD ON 4TH MARCH 2026</p> <p>Agreed - that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2026 be approved as a true and correct record.</p>	
6.	<p>QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO MAYOR</p> <p>The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that three public questions had been received.</p> <p>Councillor Healey attended the meeting and asked the following question -</p> <p>Mayor, you announced nine senior executive roles last December with salaries of up to £170,000, costing taxpayers over £1.16 million a year — yet months later, there has been no clear public confirmation of who has actually been appointed. At the same time, the Combined Authority has reportedly spent in excess of £1.1 million on recruitment consultants, engaging nine separate agencies to fill these posts.</p> <p>Can you set out clearly how many of these roles have now been filled, which remain outstanding, and what the taxpayer has received in return for this level of expenditure?</p> <p>How do you justify spending over £1.1 million on recruitment consultants, and why was it necessary to engage such a large number of agencies rather than adopting a more proportionate and value-for-money approach?</p> <p>And finally, given the earlier unsuccessful attempt to appoint a permanent Chief Executive and the continued reliance on an interim at £160,000 per year, what assurance can you give that there is proper grip, control and value for money in the way the Combined Authority is building its senior leadership structure?</p>	

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	<p>The Mayor provided the following response –</p> <p>Following a recruitment process the Authority did not appoint to the Chief Executive post. It is a very important role. Alan Menzies stepped up and has played a great role in being Interim Chief Executive.</p> <p>£1.1m is a crazy figure. I'm not going to disagree with that, but I walked into a team that was already in place. I inherited a team that every one of them was a consultant. There were no policies in place. It is normal in every combined authority, in setup phase, that everyone is a consultant and interim through agencies. No one can be on the books. It is now my role to make sure that we are coming completely away from that. The taxpayers are getting the benefit of what our expenditure is and if you speak to any single member of my team they will know how tight I am with our funds.</p> <p>The £1.1m is not just consultants it's literally been every single member of staff for the last year.</p> <p>I am also a little bit shocked on these questions that you are asking Dennis because you have had emails on the information. You have structures that you have seen and you sit on the board of scrutiny where you can scrutinise every detail of what we are doing and that is rightly so. I want to be scrutinised on everything we do. We want to be transparent in everything we do. So, I am a little bit shocked that it is you that has asked this question when you already know a lot of the facts. You already know about the Directors. You know how many we have got in. You have had emails sent to you so that shocks me. It is also quite ironic how you are asking me this question when you are the one that has wasted £120,000 on a building in Beverley. When you were asked to do a report on that building and decided not to. The Beverley Town Council have already upped the preset tax to try and rake that money back in. You are taxing everybody for that. I have not put a preset tax on anybody. I said no to a Tourism Levy and you are the one that is asking me about how I am spending money when you are happy to waste £120,000 of public money. Shame on you, Dennis. Let's move on to the next question, please.</p>	
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	<p>The Democratic Services Officer explained that the following question had been submitted by Councillor Barbara Jeffreys –</p> <p>Would the Mayor please detail what, if any, projects he has financially contributed from his original one million pounds provided at the beginning of his mayorship which was for community projects. I make particular reference to the Goole Boxing Club, to which he was invited to attend one evening to witness the training, meet trainers, and see the envisaged detailed plans for the expansion of the premises. Upon my enquiry to the principal trainer, Renata, there has been no further contact from the Mayor's office to assist financially in this endeavour. This project has been lauded throughout the East Riding in positively impacting on the rate of juvenile crime and Anti Social Behaviour's. Therefore, of considerable importance to the Town and surroundings areas.</p> <p>The Mayor provided the following response –</p> <p>I am 100% in support of this as boxing saved my life. It changed my life, it gave me the qualities that I have today with my discipline, my respect, my work ethic and my resilience. I think it is even if you did not want to compete in the sport of boxing, the friends that you get and the qualities that you can get from that sport is amazing. Just to train keeps people fit, keeps people healthy, keeps people off the streets and out of trouble and it's definitely played a part in my life. We have funded a fair few projects with the Community Fund but they have all been lower amounts than what they are asking for. I believe they are asking for £50,000 which is a big amount of money. It is being passed on to the officers that are doing all the due diligence on how we are spending public money and everything needs to be lined up correctly. Thank you for the question.</p> <p>Councillor Handley explained that she had spent a few hours with the Mayor at the Goole Boxing Club where he had sparred with a couple of the young people and they had loved it. She confirmed that as part of the Goole Town Deal funding the boxing club had been awarded £380,000 for a new building and</p>	
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	<p>she was not sure whether Councillor Jeffreys was aware of that.</p> <p>The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that the following question had been received from Mr Dave Brown.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. why is it that most parts of Yorkshire have free bus travel or reduced travel schemes for young people but in East Yorkshire we don't? For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In West Yorkshire, under the mayor, many under-19s get heavily discounted fares through the MCard system. • South Yorkshire introduced capped low fares for young people. • Some city regions elsewhere in England are trialling fully free travel for certain age groups. <p>Young people are finding it hard to access college, take part-time jobs, see friends, attend clubs or events, or simply have independence.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Many young people in rural and coastal parts of East Yorkshire struggle to access education, jobs, apprenticeships, healthcare, and social opportunities because bus services are limited, unreliable, or too expensive. Other parts of Yorkshire have introduced discounted or free travel schemes for young people. What specific plans do you have to improve affordable and reliable public transport for young people in rural and coastal communities across Hull and the East Riding, and how will you ensure we are not left behind compared to the rest of Yorkshire?" <p>The Mayor provided the following response –</p> <p>We would love to do what South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire are doing but they are much more established than we are. They were not doing that in their first year as a Combined Authority but it is certainly exactly where we want to head towards. We want to create a reliable, affordable and great transport service for the residents. Connectivity is</p>	
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	<p>key and it is a massive priority of ours to get it right. To make travel easy to school, to work, to hospital, to go to visit friends and to socialize. It is a key priority for us to do that. It is definitely something we can do. We are working towards it now. We want to go down that path where we can deliver a great service for every everyone in this region which I cannot wait to get going with. There are some very good opportunities coming up this summer that I am sitting down with my Director later today to discuss.</p> <p>Councillor Tucker informed the Board that bus services in the East Riding of Yorkshire, in particularly, were subsidised by the Council already and there were some discount schemes that were in place. The Combined Authority's Director for Transport could provide a breakdown of those subsidies and schemes to Mr Brown.</p> <p>The Mayor explained that he was waiting on a report at the moment to find out how much the region was subsidising local bus companies and also looking at integrating a bus ticket that could be used across the region and by different operators. He needed to see how much that was going to cost because he believed it would be into the millions.</p> <p>It was confirmed that there were written responses which would be provided to those who had submitted questions.</p>	
7.	<p>APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES</p> <p>The Interim Monitoring Officer explained that it was not yet possible to confirm the appointments to the Humber Bridge Board or the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee, and that there was a requirement to formally appoint the Mayor to the Humber Economic Mayoral Joint Committee.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Tucker and seconded by Councillor Handley</p> <p>That Mayor Campbell be appointed to the Humber Economic Mayoral Joint Committee.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>	

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8.	<p>AGREE THE DATES AND TIME OF THE ORDINARY MEETINGS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS</p> <p>The Democratic Services Officer submitted a report which presented, for approval, the Authority's Schedule of Meeting dates for 2026/27.</p> <p>Agreed - that the Combined Authority approves the dates and time of the ordinary meetings and committee meetings of the Combined Authority for the municipal year 2026/27 in accordance with the attached schedule (Appendix1).</p> <p><u>Reasons for Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposing a schedule of meetings at the Authority's annual meeting is a requirement of the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority Constitution. • Setting the meetings schedule at the start of the Municipal Year will ensure that the Authority is transparent in its approach to decision making and allow all members the opportunity to ensure their future availability. 	
9.	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>Agreed - that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public (including the Press) be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, minute 10, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information an individual and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</p>	
10.	<p>HULL AND EAST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY ACCOMMODATION</p> <p>The Interim Programme Director provided the Board with an overview of the options that had been</p>	

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	<p>explored in relation to the future office accommodation for the Combined Authority.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the need to provide flexibility as the organisation was expected to grow over the next 12 months and could grow further depending on any further devolved powers.</p> <p>Agreed – that the preferred option, as outlined by the officers, is explored further and that a report is submitted to the next meeting of the Board which sets out the next steps.</p>	
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The above Executive Decisions will come into force and may be implemented on expiry of five working days after the publication of the decisions i.e. 17th June 2026, unless called in by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

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