

## **CABINET**

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 12 October 2016 at 11.00 am at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

### **Present**

Councillor Donna Jones (in the Chair)

Councillors Luke Stubbs  
Jim Fleming  
Robert New  
Steve Wemyss  
Neill Young

#### **48. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)**

These had been received from Cabinet Members Councillors Ryan Brent, Lee Mason and Linda Symes.

#### **49. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)**

There were no declarations of members' interests.

#### **50. Solent Combined Authority Governance Review and Scheme (AI 3)**

David Williams as Chief Executive presented his report, which had also been presented for information and debate by full Council the previous day. He outlined the process leading to this report being brought to Cabinet to approve the updated governance review which had been revised to address the issues fed back during the consultation exercise. The finalised governance review (at Appendix 1) had been updated following the consultation and set out the rationale for a Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) whilst the proposed published scheme ('The Scheme' at Appendix 2) shows how the MCA would operate, with an outline constitution setting out the details such as membership, voting rights and area covered. Appendix 3 is the analysis of the 8 week consultation exercise undertaken by Portsmouth City Council, the Isle of Wight Council, Southampton City Council and the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (SLEP). Appendix 4 includes letters that had been received on the MCA and the devolution proposal and included support from a number of key businesses and the report from the SLEP indicating the positive support that they received from businesses during their review with the local business community.

The actions arising from the recommendations would be dependent upon the Isle of Wight and Southampton City Councils' Executive bodies also agreeing to take forward the submission to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State would then be in a position to consider undertaking further consultation if it was needed, but the Chief Executive felt that the joint consultation process had been comprehensive, especially when compared to the results from other areas which had already had proposals for a Combined Authority approved.

The Chief Executive explained that the Secretary of State was also able to make changes to the scheme, such as to the strong mayor/weaker mayor model, which would then come back to the three councils to consider further. The Secretary of State would want to ensure that all three councils are still committed to the deal before an order was laid before parliament.

The Chief Executive commended the deal which had been negotiated in March as a good one for Portsmouth City and the wider sub-region, and this model was for the directly elected mayor. As part of the consultation there had been supportive letters received from significant employers. He believed that the Secretary of State would judge the consultation to have been meaningful.

The Leader asked if there were any further comments or questions from members, which there were not, and was mindful that there had been lengthy discussions at the Council meeting on 11 October, and that there had been overwhelming support for a Combined Authority. The Southampton and Isle of Wight Executive decisions would be taken over the following 2 weeks.

Councillor Donna Jones, as Leader, supported the report which had the unanimous support of the Cabinet members present.

DECISIONS: the Cabinet agreed:

- (1) To note that a thorough 8 week consultation exercise was undertaken across the Isle of Wight, Southampton and Portsmouth council areas on the draft Governance Review and the Draft Scheme.
- (2) To note that the consultation results (see appendix 3) confirmed support for the three authorities working together to achieve devolution from central government through a mayoral combined authority.
- (3) To publish the Scheme and Review, and submit a request to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to establish a Solent Combined Authority (such a submission will be dependent on the other two Councils also resolving to publish the final Scheme and review).
- (4) To approve the Governance Review (appendix 1), revised scheme (appendix 2), and the consultation responses (appendix 3), and include these as part of the submission to the Secretary of State alongside the letters that have been received on this issue (appendix 4). [Note that the onward procedure of the Secretary of State is described in the Legal Implications/City Solicitor Comments.]
- (5) That if a submission to the Secretary of State is made, the Leader and Chief Executive be given delegated authority to negotiate the final terms of an Order to establish a Solent Mayoral Combined Authority alongside colleagues from the Isle of Wight Council and Southampton City Council.

The meeting concluded at 11.24 am.

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Councillor Donna Jones  
Leader of the Council