

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

1. This Constitution

- 1.1 This is the Constitution of The Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority ('the Authority'). The Authority was established in 2014 a local government body to co-ordinate and drive forward economic regeneration and transport initiatives for the benefit of citizens and businesses within the Sheffield City Region. In 2018 the Authority had its first Mayor elected and in 2020 the functions of the Authority were extended to include additional skills/training (including Adult Education from 2021), housing and other ancilliary functions.
- 1.2 This Constitution sets out how the Authority is made up, its legal powers and the various procedures through which it will exercise them. This may be through decisions of the Authority itself, committees of the Authority, or individual officers. The Constitution includes arrangements whereby these decisions may be reviewed by a Scrutiny Committee. It also includes other rules and processes relating to various aspects of corporate governance.

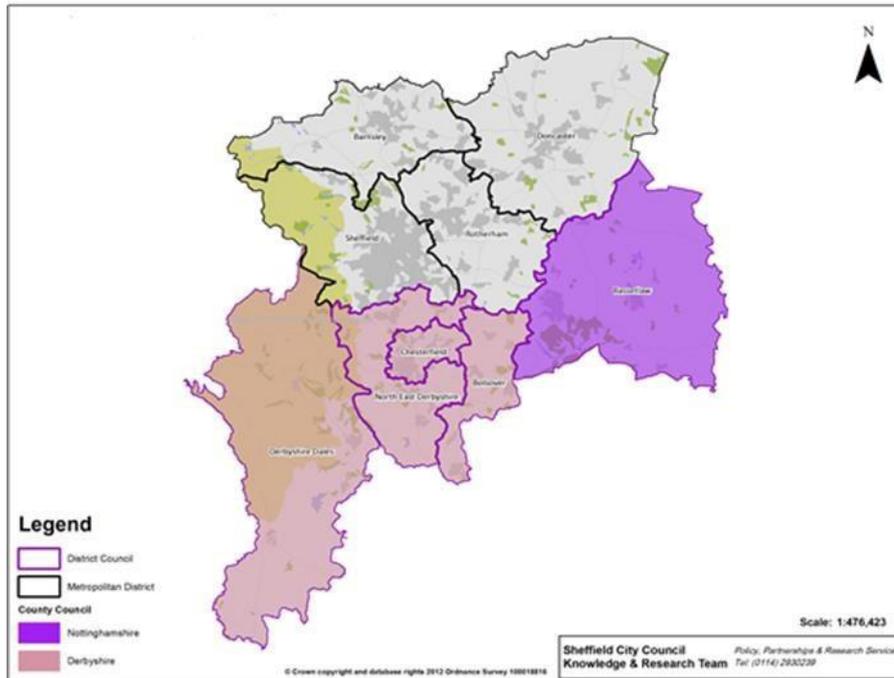
2. About the Sheffield City Region

- 2.1 The Sheffield City Region ('SCR') comprises the areas of nine local authorities:-

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Sheffield City Council
("Constituent Councils")
Bassetlaw District Council
Bolsover District Council
Chesterfield Borough Council
North East Derbyshire District Council
Derbyshire Dales Districts Council
("Non-Constituent Councils")

- 2.2 These nine local authorities have a long history of collaboration at a scale that reflects the natural economic geography of the region (see figure 1).

Figure 1 – The Sheffield City Region



3. What will the Authority do?

- 3.1 The Combined Authority is responsible for a range of functions including strategic economic development, transport, skills and training (including Adult Education) and housing at a South Yorkshire level. This will include working closely with the private sector led Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to ensure that local business representatives are actively involved in the decision making process.
- 3.2 The Authority has taken over all the functions of the former South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority. The South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive is now an executive body of the Authority.
- 3.3 In 2016 The Authority became a Mayoral Combined Authority and the first Mayor was elected in May 2018. The Mayor chairs the Authority.
- 3.4 In 2020 the LEP boundaries were changed by Government. These changes removed the Non-Constituent Council areas from the Sheffield City Region LEP geography, this has resulted in a changed mode of operation for the Authority meaning that much of the decision making is now reserved for Constituent Council Members only.

4. Mayoral Authority

- 4.1 The Mayor is the chair of the Authority and will be a full voting Member. The Mayor must also appoint a Deputy Mayor from amongst the other Members representing the Constituent Councils).

- 4.2 The Members who represent the four South Yorkshire authorities (constituent councils) have automatic voting rights, and the Members representing the five authorities from Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire (non-constituent councils) are given voting rights at the start of each meeting unless the matter in question only relates to South Yorkshire (e.g. funding transport).
- 4.3 To comply with legislation that requires there to be a majority of Members appointed from the constituent councils, the constitution requires the constituent councils to each appoint second members and for the Authority to annually appoint two of these second members. By convention these second members do not attend and vote at meetings in order to preserve the arrangement that each of the Councils are represented by one Member.
- 4.4 Except for the Mayor and the Members representing the constituent and non-constituent councils, no other attendee at Authority meetings can vote on any matter. The Authority (but not an individual Member or the Mayor) can resolve to allow other persons to attend the Authority meetings (co-opted Member). This could be because they are either an individual or represent an organisation that can make a valuable contribution to the Authority's work.
- 4.5 The voting requirements of the Authority are set out in Part 2 Article 5 of the Constitution. Whilst the Authority seeks to operate by unanimity wherever possible, the legal position on voting differs for different functions, split broadly between functions devolved by the 2014 Order (simple majority voting); functions of the Authority contained in the 2020 Order (Mayor needs to vote with the majority either 3 Leader and the Mayor, or, and by convention, will do so where all 4 constituent council Members vote in favour) and Mayoral functions (only Mayor can determine the use of the function, but may need other Member consent to do so depending on the function in question)..