

North East Combined Authority

Leadership Board

21 March 2017

Meeting held Committee Room, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF

Present:

Councillor P Watson (Chair)

Councillors G Davey, M Gannon, I Malcolm, J McCarty and B Pickard and Ms G Hall

95 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (MEMBERS)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N Forbes and S Henig, Elected Mayor N Redfearn and Mr A Hodgson.

96 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

97 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2017**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 January 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

98 **MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2017**

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 7 March 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

99 **APPOINTMENT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

Submitted: A report of the Head of Paid Service (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

It was noted that the Combined Authority was unable to finalise the recruitment exercise to secure an Interim Monitoring Officer for the authority for the meeting today.

It was, therefore, **RESOLVED** – That the report on the appointment of the Monitoring Officer be deferred.

100 **"HEALTH AND WEALTH: CLOSING THE GAP IN THE NORTHEAST" - THE REPORT OF THE NECA/NHS COMMISSION FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION**

Submitted: A report of the Head of Paid Service (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided information on the feedback received by the Chair of the Commission for Health and Social Care Integration from local authorities and health organisations, an overview of collaborative work to date and various aspects of the joint emerging oversight arrangements.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The feedback received and the cross-cutting issues raised to the Commission's recommendations (paragraphs 2 and 3) be noted;
- ii. The collaborative work with NHS organisations to implement joint oversight arrangements be continued and these arrangements would reflect and recognise local accountability (paragraph 5 and 6); and
- iii. Agreement be given to receiving regular updates regarding the implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

101 **UPDATES FROM THEMATIC LEADS**

(a) **Economic Development and Regeneration**

Submitted: An update report of the Thematic Lead for Economic Development and Regeneration (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an update on activity and progress under the Economic Development and Regeneration theme of the Combined Authority.

As an update, it was noted that the Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board had appointed Ms Gillian Hall, North East Local Enterprise Partnership, as its second Vice-Chair, in accordance with the delegation granted to the Advisory Board by the Leadership Board.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

(b) **Employability and Inclusion**

Submitted: An update report of the Thematic Lead for Employability and Inclusion (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided information on the latest progress made in delivering the Employability and Inclusion and Skills themes of the Strategic Economic Plan.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

(c) **Transport (and Digital Connectivity)**

Submitted: An update report of the Thematic Lead for Transport (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an update on progress in relation to various activities in the region that were helping to deliver the Transport Manifesto.

The ensuing discussion included matters such as the importance of investment into the Metro fleet; the need for investment in transport across the region to drive improvements, support and enable developments and address issues of capacity; the importance of incorporating these matters in strategic planning; and the need to continue to lobby the government on these matters.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

102 **PROJECT APPROVALS - LOCAL GROWTH FUND AND GOING ULTRA LOW**

Submitted: A joint report of the Head of Paid Service and Chief Finance Officer (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which sought approvals with regard to several Local Growth Fund (LGF) projects, Enterprise Zone projects, a programme of advance Enterprise Zone work and the Go Ultra Low North East Programme.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. Agreement be given to the issuing of a full Grant Funding Agreement of £4.204m to deliver the combined Northern Access Corridor Phase 2 & 3 project, which would now be treated as one project, and in accordance with specific conditions as set out in paragraph 2.1.3 of the report;
- ii. Agreement be given to further extension of the South Shields Transport Hub 'Stage 1' LGF Grant Funding Agreement by £0.900m, to £3.400m, for further development and enabling works and in accordance with specific conditions as set out in paragraph 2.2.3 of the report;
- iii. Agreement be given to a Stage 1 LGF grant funding allocation of £1.260m for advance works on the North Bank of Tyne (Swans) project, as outlined in section 2.3 of the report subject to standard grant funding terms and conditions, including clawback clauses should follow-on works not proceed and also confirmation that this assistance was compliant with State Aid regulations;
- iv. Agreement be given to a £2m block programme available to fund advance Enterprise Zone works to help accelerate activity on the enterprise zone sites, funded initially by the Local Growth Fund grant and then from business rate income from the sites, as set out in section 2.4 of the report;

- v. Agreement be given to the £1.417m of first phase highway infrastructure works on the Newcastle Airport Enterprise Zone site, and an additional £3.5m for the Sunderland A19 Hillthorn Farm Enterprise Zone – Site 3 Highway Works and Land Remediation, which had been approved by the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in January and was to be funded from business rate receipts, as set out in section 2.4 of the report;
- vi. Delegate authority be given to the Head of Paid Service to implement any change to the Local Growth Fund Grant Funding programme agreed to by the Local Enterprise Partnership Board on 23 March, in consultation with the Chair, the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer;
- vii. The Monitoring Officer be authorised to finalise and enter into any legal and Grant Funding documentation required to enable the Local Growth Funding programme to proceed; and
- viii. Delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Lead Chief Executive for Transport, Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer to take all appropriate steps to implement the Go Ultra Low North East Programme and authorise the Monitoring Officer to negotiate and complete the associated funding agreement(s) and all other relevant legal documentation to deliver the Programme.

103 **COMBINED AUTHORITIES (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES, ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND AUDIT COMMITTEES) ORDER 2016**

Submitted: A report of the Monitoring Officer (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which advised them of the requirements of the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2016 and invited approval of associated arrangements.

The Monitoring Officer clarified the advisable options for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that the changes to the Constitution if independent persons were appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair were identified by use of italics in Appendix 1 of the report. The Appendix provided the relevant section of the Constitution affected by the changes introduced by the new Order.

The Chair explained that the Leadership Board had given full regard to the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and whilst the Leadership Board appreciated the Committee's views and complimented the Committee on its work, it was understood that the changes were brought to improve the position across the country because the current arrangements did not work well everywhere.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The implications of the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2016 be noted;

- ii. Consent be given to the publication of the procedure for call-in of decisions proposed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in the report;
- iii. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be an independent person;
- iv. Agreement be given to the establishment of the role of Vice-Chair for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and their appointment would be on the same basis as the appointment of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed under Resolution iii above;
- v. The Leadership Board noted that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governance Committee were independent members and the appointment of independent members to fulfil such roles would continue;
- vi. The Leadership Board would continue to support the process for member referrals and member involvement in establishing an annual scrutiny work programme as set out in the report;
- vii. The relevant amendments to the Constitution as set out in Appendix 1 of the report to reflect the appointment of independent persons as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be agreed; and
- viii. The statement provided by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at paragraph 3.20 of the report be noted.

104

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE POLICY REVIEW: TRANSPORT RELATED BARRIERS TO EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Submitted: A report of the Lead Chief Executive Officer for Transport (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided information on the 2015/16 Policy Review undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee into transport-related barriers to education, employment and training.

The Chair asked for thanks to be passed on to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its work and highlighted the importance of incorporating the committee's comments as applicable.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The recommendations proposed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted; and
- ii. The proposed response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in Appendix 4, be agreed.

105 **SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT FUNDING**

Submitted: A report of the Head of Paid Service (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which set out the background to Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) funding and sought approval to proceed with delivering this funding in the North East.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The proposal to deliver Sustainable Urban Development European Funding in the North East as set out in section 2 of the report be approved;
- ii. Newcastle City Council would be the Intermediary Body for the Sustainable Urban Development European Funding; and
- iii. The operational approach set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report and below be approved:
 - The Intermediary Body function would be undertaken by Newcastle City Council.
 - The Strategy function would be undertaken by the North East LEP in partnership with the Intermediary Body, other local authorities and key stakeholders. This involved finalising the SUD Strategy document with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and writing the associated strategic call documents to invite project applications.
 - SUD project development should be undertaken by all six local authorities within the SUD boundary and wider partners to respond to the calls for SUD projects to be funded.
 - SUD project evaluation was part of the Intermediary Body function and would be undertaken by Newcastle City Council in partnership with DCLG and with appropriate ethical walls in place.
 - A sub-group of the existing European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Sub-Committee governance structure would be utilised to provide the Intermediary Body assessment of projects. All six local authorities should be represented on this sub-group.

106 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING (ANNUAL MEETING)**

Tuesday, 20 June 2017 at 2pm at North Tyneside Council.