

## **North of Tyne Combined Authority, Cabinet**

12 March 2019

Meeting held: Committee Room, North Tyneside Council, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY

### **Minutes**

#### **Present:**

Mayor N Redfearn (Chair)

Councillors N Forbes, J McCarty, W Daley, P Earley, P Jackson and B Pickard

#### **30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Mr A Hodgson.

#### **31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

J Softly, the Interim Monitoring Officer, confirmed that all Members had been issued with dispensations so that they could take part in decisions on funding awards (agenda item 4 - Investment Fund Update), involving the constituent authorities which had appointed them.

#### **32 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 February 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **33 ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair gave feedback on the success of The Business Summit, a recent engagement event for the Business Sector and the Combined Authority on the North of Tyne Devolution Deal, including key messages arising.

A Member also gave feedback on the Closer Working event, one of several recent and forthcoming engagement events for the Voluntary and Community Sector and the Combined Authority.

## 34 INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE AND FUNDING APPROVALS

Submitted: A report of the Interim Director of Inclusive Growth (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes)

The Cabinet considered the report which sought approvals for applications for funding on current projects.

The report also:

- provided an outline of the proposed call for bids for a programme of interventions designed to inspire more children and young people to pursue STEM subjects and develop digital skills;
- outlined the next stage of the work programme around the investment fund; and
- sought delegated authority for chief officers for approvals relating to a potential allocation of funding to support the hosting of a stage of the Tour of Britain 2019 cycling event.

A proposal was put forward and seconded for a minor amendment to the recommendation 5 to give the Interim Head of Paid Service delegated authority, in consultation with the Interim Mayor and relevant portfolio holders, “*to agree*” an allocation of funding to support a North of Tyne stage of the 2019 Tour of Britain Cycling event subject to the normal appraisal processes. The Cabinet agreed this amendment.

In discussion, Members welcomed the progress achieved on these early stages of projects and interventions. They spoke about the benefits of the projects which were aimed to deliver real improvements for the North of Tyne area.

The Chair spoke about the beauty and the rich offer of the region and the long and hard journey it had taken to achieve the Devolution Deal. She thanked everyone involved in the work to achieve progress.

**RESOLVED** – That:

- 1) The following funding awards be approved:
  - i. £1,265,307 (over 4 years) to Northumberland County Council for the North of Tyne Rural Business Growth Investment Fund;
  - ii. £175,000 to Northumberland County Council for the Northumberland to Newcastle Line – Economic Transformation Masterplan;
  - iii. £75,000 to Northumberland County Council for the Local Full Fibre Network;
  - iv. £200,000 to North Tyneside Council for the North Shields masterplan and Business Case Development Study.
  - v. £48,965 to Northern Stage for the Raby Street Creative Hub Feasibility and Business Plan;
- 2) The Interim Head of Paid Service be authorised to finalise the conditions to be attached to the above funding awards, and the Interim Monitoring Officer be authorised to complete the necessary documentation;

- 3) A budget of up to £1,250,000 over 3 years for the STEM and Digital Skills Programme as set out in section 1.4 of the report be approved, and the Interim Head of Paid Service be authorised, in consultation with the Interim Mayor and portfolio holder for Education Improvement, to finalise and publish the call documentation;
- 4) The Interim Head of Paid Service be authorised, in consultation with the Interim Mayor and relevant Portfolio Holders, to commission the Investment Fund development work and any other steps as set out in section 1.5 of the report;
- 5) The Interim Head of Paid service be authorised, in consultation with the Interim Mayor and relevant portfolio holders, to agree an allocation of funding to support a North of Tyne stage of the 2019 Tour of Britain Cycling event as set out in section 1.6 of the report, subject to the normal appraisal processes.

### 35 **2019-2022 FINANCIAL PLAN AND BUDGET (INCLUDING APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR)**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which set out the budget for the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) for 2019/20 and the medium-term financial plan for that period, for approval. The report also invited the Cabinet to agree the appointment of the External Auditor for the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20.

**RESOLVED** – That the Cabinet:

- i. Agreed the Corporate Budget for 2019/20 as set out in Paragraph 1.1;
- ii. Agreed the Investment Fund Budget as set out in paragraph 1.4;
- iii. Agreed the Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20 as described in paragraph 1.6 and attached at Appendix A;
- iv. Noted that the Transport Levies were issued on the 15 February as required;
- v. Agreed to hold the level of reserves set out in paragraph 1.9 and noted that the Chief Finance Officer would continue to keep the level of reserves under review as the Authority developed and new information became available about the financial risks facing the authority's arrangements for managing those risks; and
- vi. Agreed the appointment of Ernst Young as the External Auditor for the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20 (Paragraph 1.13).

### 36 **UPDATE ON NORTH OF TYNE COMBINED AUTHORITY MAYORAL ELECTION**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which gave information on the preparations for the forthcoming North of Tyne Combined Authority Mayoral Election and sought

confirmation that the Interim Head of Paid Service should be appointed as the Combined Authority's Returning Officer.

As an update, it was noted that the public awareness campaign had now been launched.

Regarding the voting process, a Member asked that information for voters should be clear that they had "*up to two votes*".

**RESOLVED** – That:

- i. the progress made in preparing for the Mayoral Election be noted; and
- ii. the appointment of Pat Ritchie, the Interim Head of Paid Service, as the Combined Authority's Returning Officer (CARO) be confirmed.

**37 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, 24 April 2019 at 2pm.