

North of Tyne Combined Authority, Cabinet

4 June 2019

Meeting held: Committee Room, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH

Minutes

Present:

Chair: Mayor J Driscoll

Councillors W Daley (part of meeting), N Forbes, C Homer (part of meeting), P Jackson (part of meeting), C Johnson, J McCarty and N Oliver (part of meeting), Mayor N Redfearn and Mr A Hodgson

1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Jamie Driscoll, the Elected Mayor of the North of Tyne Combined Authority and the Chair of Cabinet, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their support both during the election process and now that he was in office. He spoke about aspirations, capacity, engagement and commitment to deliver improvements for the North of Tyne and welcomed the progress made to date.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor B Pickard.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors P Jackson and W Daley declared a non-participation interest in agenda item 8 (Investment Fund Update) due to being Directors of Advance Northumberland and left the room for the duration of the consideration of that agenda item. Their Substitute Members, Councillors N Oliver and C Homer, deputised for them during the consideration of that agenda item.

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 April 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

School Improvement Strategy and Education Challenge

(Minute 41 refers)

Councillor W Daley, as Portfolio Holder for Education Improvement, referred to the principles and key elements of the Education Challenge, stressed the importance of that commitment and provided an update on the meeting with the Department for Education regarding the timetable and the NTCA commitment to delivering a pioneering Education Challenge.

5 APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET, COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

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

The Cabinet considered the report which set out its membership, the proposed appointments to the committees of NTCA and other bodies and the process to appoint Mayor's Ambassadors for Business and the Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS). The report was introduced by the Interim Monitoring Officer.

The Mayor advised the Cabinet that he was appointing Mayor Norma Redfearn as Deputy Mayor of NTCA.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. the Cabinet membership set out at Appendix 1(a) be noted;
- ii. the allocation of Cabinet portfolios set out at Appendix 1(b) and the schedule of meetings for the municipal year 2019/20 set out at Appendix 1(c) be agreed;
- iii. the approach to the appointment of the Mayor's Ambassador for Business and the Mayor's Ambassador for CVS set out in section 2 of the report be agreed and the Interim Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Mayor, be authorised to finalise the details of, and then implement, the application processes;
- iv. the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Audit and Standards Committee and the Housing and Land Board as set out in Appendix 3 be agreed;
- v. the appointment of members and substitute members to the Joint Transport Committee and the Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee as set out in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 be agreed;
- vi. Councillor Nick Forbes be NTCA's representative on the Board of Transport for the North (TfN) and Councillor Peter Jackson be the substitute member; and

- vii. Councillor Carl Johnson be NTCA's representative on TfN's Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Bruce Pickard be the substitute member.

6 **DRAFT 2018/19 OUTTURN STATEMENT AND DRAFT 2018/19 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which advised it of the draft outturn position for the period ended 31 March 2019. The report was introduced by the Interim Chief Finance Officer.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. the information contained in the report be noted; and
- ii. the intention to present the audited 2018/19 Statement of Accounts to Cabinet on 30 July 2019 be noted.

7 **NORTH OF TYNE ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET DEVOLUTION**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which sought approval to consent to the making of the legal order by the Secretary of State for Education to devolve the Adult Education Budget (AEB) to NTCA from the academic year 2020/21 onwards. The report was introduced by the Monitoring Officer.

Members commented on the importance of the AEB devolution, which was a core part of the Devolution Deal for the North of Tyne and which would help to enable NTCA to take responsibility for the provision of adult education, address the skills gap and shape a better future for the North of Tyne area. Members welcomed the progress.

In welcoming AEB devolution, Members agreed to continue, with other combined authorities, to lobby the government to ensure there was enough funding to provide the capacity to manage and deliver the AEB devolution.

RESOLVED – That the Interim Head of Paid Service be authorised, in consultation with the portfolio holder, to:

- i. provide written confirmation to the Secretary of State that NTCA consented to the making of the order which would devolve the Adult Education Budget to NTCA as set out in the report; and

- ii. complete the Memorandum of Understanding between NTCA and the Secretary of State which would set out the agreed ways of working between the parties.

8 INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE

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

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on investment decisions which had been made, invited further decisions on the allocation of funding and sought associated authorisations and approvals.

The Chair and Members asked for their thanks to everyone who was involved in progressing and delivering programmes and projects to be recorded.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. the funding requests for the Woodhorn Charitable Trust and Kielder Observatory Astronomical Society proposals as part of the STEM and Digital Skills Programme be agreed.
- ii. the outcome of the external appraisal undertaken for the NTCA Inward Investment Fund be noted and the Interim Head of Paid Service be authorised to approve individual applications in consultation with the NTCA Investment Panel.
- iii. a £3m allocation of the Inclusive Economy Innovation Fund to the Employability and Skills (phase 1) programme be agreed and the Interim Head of Paid Service be authorised, in consultation with the Investment Panel to:
 - finalise and publish the call documentation that will launch the fund in June 2019, given the time critical nature of the approach;
 - approve the assessment criteria for applications; and
 - approve subsequent in-principle offers of match funding to successful applicants in consultation with the Investment Panel.
- iv. Business Case Development funding of £70,000 for the Transforming North of Tyne's Transport proposal and £52,500 for the Energy Central Hub proposal be approved.
- v. 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.

9 INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE: FULL FIBRE PROGRAMME BID UPDATE

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

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on the application by the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Full Fibre Programme and asked the Cabinet to reconfirm its support for the bid and its successful delivery.

Members noted the role and importance of advanced digital connectivity for the North of Tyne. Members also noted the stages of the progress of the bid within the government programme and the work to reinstate it.

The Chair and Members thanked everyone involved for their hard work.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. the progress with the bid to the Government's Full Fibre Programme be noted;
- ii. NTCA's support for the bid to the Government's Full Fibre Programme with the aim of significantly improving digital connectivity across the area, especially in rural areas, be reconfirmed;
- iii. NTCA's intention to act as the accountable body for this project and run the necessary procurement exercise be confirmed; and
- iv. a full paper to formally approve the details of this be brought to the July 2019 meeting.

10 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 30 July 2019 at 2pm.