

North of Tyne Combined Authority, Cabinet

26 September 2019

(2.03 - 2.27 pm)

Meeting held: Linskill Centre, Linskill Terrace, North Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE30 2AY

Minutes

Present:

Mayor J Driscoll (Chair)

Councillors: N Forbes, P Jackson, W Daley, C Burdis and Mayor N Redfearn,

21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J McCarty and B Pickard.

22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 30 JULY 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 July 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

24 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor made reference to the Prime Minister's speech about further devolution and advised the Cabinet that he had spoken to both the Prime Minister and the Northern Powerhouse Minister about this and that both had given verbal confirmation of their commitment, but it was not yet known how it would transpire. It was anticipated that it would require the introduction of a substantial amount of new legislation. The Mayor and officers were continuing to pursue the matter, and further discussions were to take place with the M9 group in Manchester the following week.

The Mayor also advised the Cabinet that he had appointed Mick Bowman, a former councillor and mental health lead for Newcastle City Council, as his political advisor. The appointment had been made in accordance with the relevant legislation.

25 **NTCA PAY POLICY**

Submitted: Report of Interim Director of Inclusive Economy (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which recommended the approval of a Pay Policy Statement for the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) and proposed that NTCA make an application to become accredited as a Living Wage Employer.

Members welcomed the report and noted that the Pay Policy for NTCA reflected the practice of the constituent authorities, all of which were committed to paying staff the Real Living Wage.

The Mayor advised members that he had met with the Living Wage Foundation and that NTCA was on track to achieve accreditation. It was also clarified that the living wage would apply to all staff, both directly and indirectly employed by the combined authority.

The Mayor also noted that the organisation presently had a zero gender pay gap on a median basis, which was something that all organisations should aspire to, and that it was great to be in that position at the start.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Approved the proposed Pay Policy Statement attached at Appendix A of the report; and
- ii. Agreed that NTCA should seek Living Wage Foundation accreditation and that the Head of Paid Service be authorised to progress that application.

26 **NTCA FINANCIAL PLANNING BUDGET PROCESS**

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

Members considered the report which set out information in relation to the proposed 2020-2024 Financial Planning and Budget process and the key decision milestones, including the development of a Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and development of detailed budgets, for 2020/21.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet approved the proposed outline 2020-2024 Financial Planning and Budget process, which incorporated the key decision milestones and dates as set out at Appendix A to the report.

27 INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE

Submitted: Report of Interim Director of Inclusive Economy (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which updated the Cabinet on progress to date and future work relating to the investment fund, progress to date on the Local Full Fibre Programme and next steps, and recommended the allocation of £2.6m to support the Newcastle United Foundation's NU Futures project.

Members welcomed the opportunity to partner with the Newcastle United Foundation on the NU Future project, noting that it was a credible organisation and that the NU Futures project was seen as an exciting, innovative and world-class programme. The project worked in schools within some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised communities in the region, using football as a way of attracting young people and their parents and carers to the programme.

It was further clarified that the investment from NTCA would be just part of an overall investment package from a number of partners and that it would be subject to a number of conditions, including that whole package of funding being put in place.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Noted progress to date on the Investment Fund, achievement of key milestones and ongoing development work, particularly in respect of project development around our priority sectors;
- ii. Noted progress to date on the Local Full Fibre Programme and next steps which include: establishing governance arrangements, appointing a programme manager and initiating the procurement exercise;
- iii. Agreed £2.6m to support the Newcastle United Foundation's NU Futures project; and
- iv. Authorised the Interim Head of Paid Service to finalise the conditions to be attached to the above funding award and authorised the Interim Monitoring Officer to complete the necessary documentation.

28 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 22 October 2019 at 2pm.