

Cabinet, 2 June 2020

(2.03 - 2.30 pm)

This meeting was held virtually and live streamed.

Approved Minutes

Present:

Chair: Mayor J Driscoll

Councillors W Daley, N Forbes, P Jackson, J McCarty and B Pickard, Mayor N Redfearn and Mr A Hodgson

Also: Mr R Fry, Mayoral Ambassador for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (Observer)

65 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

66 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

67 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests.

68 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 February 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

69 **A MINUTE'S SILENCE**

The Cabinet held a minute's silence to pay respect to all those who had died as a result of COVID-19.

70 **NTCA'S PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 2020/21**

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

Members considered the report which explained the position with annual meetings of the constituent local authorities as a result of restrictions due to COVID-19 and recommended that the annual meeting should be deferred. The report also set out the proposed programme of future committee meetings of the Combined Authority up to June 2021.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. the annual meeting be deferred; and
- ii. the programme of committee meetings set out in the appendix to the report be agreed.

71 **CABINET - SCRUTINY PROTOCOL**

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

The report sought the Cabinet's adoption of the proposed North of Tyne Combined Authority's Cabinet – Scrutiny Protocol, as a document to govern relationships between the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor G Roughead, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee introduced the Protocol. Amongst the matters reflected during his presentation, he welcomed the positive working relationships between the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Mayor, Cabinet and senior officers. Councillor G Roughead thanked the Scrutiny Officer and the Vice-Chair of the Committee for their work on the document.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Roughead. The Mayor found the regular meetings with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Scrutiny Officer of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee helpful; and these continued during the lock-down period.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet-Scrutiny Protocol be adopted as part of the Authority's Constitution.

72 **SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT**

Submitted: A report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (previously circulated and attached to the Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an overview of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee since the establishment of the Combined Authority.

Councillor G Roughead, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee introduced the report. He offered thanks to members and officers. The current and previous members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were thanked for their work and contribution for the period the report covered.

Councillor Roughead thanked Councillor L Wright, the Vice-Chair of the Committee, for her support and dedication and E Kerr, the Scrutiny Officer, and L Camsell, the Democratic Services Officer, for their support and commitment. He found that these officers were a credit to the Combined Authority's reputation.

During his presentation, Councillor Roughead highlighted the effectiveness, professionalism and dedication of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He spoke about the Committee's work programme and achievements.

Considering the effects of COVID-19, this subject matter, including economic recovery within the North of Tyne, would need to be added to the work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Roughead welcomed the positive working relationships between the Committee and the Mayor, Cabinet and senior officers, which, it was hoped, would continue and strengthen.

The Mayor commented on the good experience when working with the Scrutiny Team.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Roughead for this work and commended his chairmanship.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

73

NTCA'S ROLE AS ACCOUNTABLE BODY FOR THE NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

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

Members considered the report which outlined the Combined Authority's role as the accountable body to the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NE LEP).

P Hanson, the Head of Paid Service, introduced the report.

Mr A Hodgson, the Chair of NE LEP commented on the importance of an accountable body for the organisation. Mr A Hodgson thanked the Executive Teams involved for their support during the transfer time.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The report be noted;

- ii. The Head of Paid Service be authorised to make delegated decisions on behalf of NTCA to give effect to the decisions made by NELEP as set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report; and

The reporting proposals as outlined in paragraph 2.6 of the report be agreed.

74 **NTCA CORPORATE POLICIES**

Submitted: A report of the Director of Policy and Performance (previously circulated and attached to the Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which sought adoption of the proposed North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) policies relating to:

- Data Protection and Confidentiality;
- Environmental;
- Equalities and Diversity;
- Modern Slavery; and
- Social Value.

The Mayor commented on the importance of corporate policies to help to ensure the Combined Authority continued to maintain the very high standards of governance.

RESOLVED – That each of the proposed policies attached as appendices to the report be approved.

75 **INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

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

The Cabinet considered the report, which invited it to consider a set of principles that would guide the development of a Capital Investment Strategy that would form part of the budget setting process for 2021/22 - 2023/24. The Capital Investment Strategy, as the policy framework document, would set out the principles to be used to inform decisions on capital spending priorities in accordance with achieving the vision of the economic plan for the North of Tyne area. J Gillespie, the Chief Finance Officer, introduced the report.

RESOLVED – That the principles set out in paragraphs 1.4 to 1.6 of the report be approved.

76 **INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE AND FUNDING APPROVALS**

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

The Cabinet considered the report, which provided an update on the progress that had been made on the NTCA Investment Fund to bring forward the latest proposed investment decisions within the agreed NTCA economic framework and to set out next steps in relation to these propositions.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Noted the progress to date on the Investment Fund, achievement of key milestones and ongoing development work, particularly in respect of defrayed expenditure and project development around our priority sectors.
- ii. Authorised the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Investment Proposal, to approve change requests to projects previously approved by Cabinet where such requests did not result in an increase in expenditure of more than £200,000 or an extension of delivery by more than 2 quarters (as set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report).
- iii. Noted the launch of the North of Tyne Capacity Fund to support local authorities' response to the COVID19 pandemic.
- iv. Noted progress to date on the Offshore and Subsea Programme and the launch of the call for Offshore Wind Infrastructure project proposals.
- v. Authorised the Interim Head of Paid Service, in consultation with Investment Panel, to approve the application from Advance Northumberland (Commercial) Limited for £793,654 funding for the Rural Design Centre Innovation Project subject to the satisfactory conclusion of the appraisal process, including further consideration of the strategic context for our work on rural development and the identification any appropriate conditions of funding.

77 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 28 July 2020 at 2pm.