

North of Tyne Combined Authority, Cabinet

28 July 2020

(2.03 - 3.15 pm)

The meeting was held virtually and live streamed.

Minutes

Present:

Chair: Mayor J Driscoll

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

Observer: Mr R Fry

78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr A Hodgson.

79 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Mayor thanked Mr A Hodgson, who had been representing the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) on the Combined Authority, for his work and wished him success in his future endeavours. (It was noted that Mr A Hodgson was stepping down from his position as the Chair of LEP.)

80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

81 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 June 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

82 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 progress that had been made on the NTCA Investment Fund and brought forward the latest proposed investment decisions within the agreed Investment Plan.

The Mayor welcomed the progress. The Mayor also welcomed the quality of the jobs under the programme.

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 the North of Tyne Combined Authority's priority sectors;
- ii. Approved the allocation of funding of £500,000 of Business Case Development funding for the Unlocking Sustainable Future Homes through Collaboration proposal subject to conditions in section 1.3 of the report;
- iii. Approved the allocation of funding of £1,299,952 for the Advancing Circular Economy – R&D Demonstrator project subject to the funding conditions set out in section 1.4 of the report;
- iv. Approved the allocation of funding of £125,000 to fund NTCA's online community engagement and crowdfunding platforms, subject to the funding conditions set out in section 1.5 of the report; and

Authorised the Interim Head of Paid Service to finalise the conditions to be attached to the above funding awards and authorised the Interim Monitoring Officer to complete the necessary documentation.

83 **COMMUNITY HUBS INVESTMENT FUND**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which set out proposals for the North of Tyne Community Hubs pilot programme. The programme aimed to support community-led enterprise and innovation within the North of Tyne.

The Mayor spoke about the importance of supporting communities, welcomed the programme and gave examples of community-led enterprise and innovation. The support under the programme would be particularly important now, due to the impact of COVID-19. The Mayor commended this outcome of the Combined Authority's work to date.

Members welcomed the programme and commented on its role of supporting and empowering communities, both urban and rural.

The Mayor thanked everyone involved in this work.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Agreed an indicative overall Investment Fund of £1.53 million to establish a Community Hubs Investment Fund;
- ii. Endorsed the development of a full business case – created through bottom-up identification of relevant projects by Local Authorities within a NTCA assurance framework; with funding subsequently devolved to Local Authorities on this basis; and
- iii. Authorised the Interim Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Investment Panel and the Mayor (as Portfolio holder for this workstream), to consider and approve the final business case which would be subject to a full appraisal and would set out clear assessment criteria and approach to delivery.

84 **ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET DEVOLUTION**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which provided a summary of how the devolved Adult Education Budget would be invested from 1 August 2020 and detailed the benefits and opportunities it would provide for residents, employers and the economy.

Members welcomed the achievement and noted the planned work ahead. As part of the programme, there would be an important opportunity to learn from the sector to ensure its confidence was maintained.

The Mayor welcomed this achievement as part of delivery of the devolution promise for the North of Tyne. Members and Officers were thanked for their work.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet noted the progress which had been made in preparation for the North of Tyne Combined Authority taking control of the devolved Adult Education Budget and endorsed the investment approach to address local need.

85 **JOINT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which presented the strategy for a unified approach to school improvement.

Thanks were offered to P Hanson and A Dougherty for their work.

Members commented on the importance of education, equality, careful consideration of the needs of children and young people and the future prosperity of the region.

The Mayor referenced the challenges of the area and emphasised the importance of investment in education, tackling social issues and providing opportunities for an improved attainment for all.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Considered the strategy outlined and endorsed the overall approach, as set out in the report;
- ii. Agreed that officers in each constituent local authority and at the North of Tyne Combined Authority would commence work on the actions outlined in the strategy; and

Delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder, to finalise the terms of reference for and appointments to the Education Improvement Board and the associated arrangements set out in the report.

86 **2019/20 NTCA AND NORTH EAST LEP FINANCIAL OUTTURN: INCLUDING LEP 2020/21 BUDGET AND ILLUSTRATIONS FOR 2021-22 AND INEE 2019/20 OUTTURN AND 2020/21 BUDGET**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which advised it of the 2019/20 outturn position of the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA).

The report included the North East LEP (LEP) Financial Outturn position, including the LEP 2020/21 budget and illustrations for 2021-22 and Invest North East England (INEE) 2019/20 Outturn and 2020/21 budget, for information.

The Mayor welcomed the Corporate Budget expenditure being slightly under the budgeted level.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Noted the information contained in the report;
- ii. Noted the positive 2019/20 NTCA Outturn position of £0.285m;
- iii. Agreed that £0.200m be carried forward of for commissioning work;
- iv. Noted the Draft 2019/20 Audited Statement of Accounts which was presented at the Audit and Standards Committee on 28 July 2020;
- v. Noted the intention to present the audited 2019/20 Statement of Accounts to the Cabinet on the 29 September 2020 following consideration by the Audit and Standards Committee on 22 September 2020; and

Noted the update on the North East LEP 2019/20 financial outturn; the updated 2020/21 budget and illustrations for 2021/22 and 2022/23; including the North East Investment Fund, Enterprise Zone Account and the Invest North East England outturn and budget position.

87 **Q.1 2020/21 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which presented the first quarter monitoring report on the 2020/2021 financial position. The report provided the forecast financial position for both the Corporate, Investment Fund and Adult Education budget and provided an indication of the potential position of the Combined Authority at 31 March 2021. The report also set out the potential position on reserves at the year end.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet noted the forecast budget monitoring position for the Combined Authority as set out in paragraphs 1.2, 1.3,1.4 and 1.5 of the report.

88 **UPDATED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which sought approval of the revised Financial Regulations, including Contract Standing Orders, for the Combined Authority.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Approved the changes to existing Financial Regulations, including Contract Standing Orders, described in the report and set out in Appendices A and B; and
- ii. Authorised the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer to finalise the terms of the revised Financial Regulations and the Contract Standing Orders.

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

Tuesday, 29 September 2020 at 2pm.

90 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There was no exclusion of press and public.

91 **ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET DEVOLUTION - APPENDIX 4**

This document had been circulated to all Members as part of the agenda pack for the meeting.