

Minutes

Cabinet

21 March 2023 (4.30 - 5.16 pm)

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

Present:

Chair: Mayor J Driscoll

Councillors A Hay, C Johnson, K Kilgour, G Sanderson and R Wearmouth, Dame Mayor N Redfearn and Mr M Thompson

Also: Ms L Goodwin (Observer)

64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor N Kemp.

65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

66 ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There were no additional announcements.

67 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 January 2023 were approved as a correct record.

68 NTCA ANNUAL REPORT

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

The Cabinet considered the annual report which set out the North of Tyne Combined Authority's (NTCA) work and achievements over the last year. The report included information on how NTCA was delivering its Vision through the three cross-cutting themes of Net Zero Transition, Inclusive Economy and Innovation in Recovery, and across all the delivery themes. The report also included annual updates from the Inclusive Economy Board, the Housing and Land Board and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Group.

The Cabinet welcomed the report.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Cabinet, highlighted the key achievements to date, praised the NTCA approach to working in partnership with regional stakeholders and thanked everyone for their work.

Comments were also made about:

- the outcomes that had been achieved as a result of joint working; and the importance of continuing this approach;
- the NTCA's focus on putting the people of the region at the heart of its work;
- the bright future ahead for the region, despite its traditional portrait as an area with many challenges;
- the work being progressed to achieve a significant improvement of the economy of the region, including within the important modern industries;
- the results achieved in keeping the unemployment down;
- the NTCA's work and achievements as the evidence and example of how decisions could be better when they are taken locally;
- the NTCA's approach to the inclusion of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector; and thanks from the VCSE sector to the Combined Authority for this approach.

Thanks were also offered to members, officers and partners for their work.

The Cabinet then watched a video with the examples of positive changes to people's lives that were enabled as a result of the NTCA's work.

RESOLVED – That "Devolution Delivers", the NTCA annual report, be endorsed; and the work and support of the Inclusive Economy Board, the Housing and Land Board and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Group be noted.

69 **DEVOLUTION UPDATE - PRESENTATION**

Dr H Kippin, the NTCA Chief Executive, delivered a presentation, giving an update on the new Devolution Deal (displayed electronically at the meeting and copy attached to Official Minutes). The Cabinet noted the update.

The Cabinet welcomed the progress achieved. Comments were made about the significant amount of work that had been taken over the years to achieve this progress and that more work was yet to be done. Thanks were offered to everyone for their work, including members, officers and MPs. Special thanks were offered to the past and present Chief Executive Officers of NTCA and the constituent Local Authorities for their lobbying work.

RESOLVED – That the presentation and update be noted.

70 **EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT AND CHILD POVERTY PREVENTION**

Submitted: A report of the Head of Public Sector Innovation (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on the progress of the NTCA Child Poverty Prevention and Education Improvement pilot programmes and sought approval to support the continuation of both programmes of work.

The report was introduced by Councillor K Kilgour, the Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Skills. Thanks were offered to officers for their work and the progress achieved.

The Cabinet welcomed the report. The Mayor suggested that recommendations 2 (a) and 2 (b) should be amended to add “expanded” to the proposals; and the suggestion was supported by the Cabinet.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The progress of the Education Improvement Programme and Child Poverty Prevention Programme for the North of Tyne be noted; and
2. The continuation and expansion of both programmes of work be approved as follows:
 - a) the funding of £1,100,000 for the continuation and expansion of the NTCA Education Improvement Programme be approved; and authority be delegated to the Chief Executive for implementation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder;
 - b) the funding of £1,360,000 for the continuation and expansion of the NTCA Child Poverty Prevention Programme be approved, and authority be delegated to the Chief Executive for implementation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder; and
 - c) Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer to sign off amendments to the programmes if required once delivery had commenced.

71 **DEVOLVED ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET MID-YEAR UPDATE**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on provision that had been delivered through the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) for the 6-month period from 1 August 2022 to 4 February 2023. The report set out the adult education opportunities that had been created for the NTCA’s residents during the

first half of the current academic year (AY) and outlined next steps in terms of managing the AEB delivery for the remainder of the AY 2022-23. The report also detailed the progress that had been made towards setting up a Post-16 Skills Flexible Procurement Framework to commission skills funding.

The report was introduced by Councillor K Kilgour, the Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Skills.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and thanked members and officers for their work. References were made to the areas of the region that had benefited the most from the NTCA's work on AEB.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. the progress which had been made in terms of AEB delivery for the first half of the academic year (AY) 2022-23 be noted; and the approach to managing AEB delivery for the remainder of this AY be endorsed; and
- ii. the progress in establishing the NTCA Post-16 Skills Flexible Procurement Framework be noted.

72 NTCA 2021-22 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

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

The Cabinet considered the report which explained the intention to present the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 and the Annual Governance Statement for 2021-2022 and the reasons for delays, which were associated with the external audit. The report provided an update on progress and set out revised timelines for the conclusion of the audit work.

RESOLVED – That the update on the work to complete the audit of the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Statement of Accounts and Value for Money Conclusion be noted.

73 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 6 June 2023 at 2pm (Annual Meeting).