

Cabinet

25 July 2023

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

Minutes

Present:

Chair: Dame Mayor N Redfearn

Councillors A Hay, C Johnson, K Kilgour, G Sanderson and R Wearmouth and Ms L Winskell

17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mayor J Driscoll and Councillor N Kemp.

18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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

Dame Mayor Redfearn thanked members, officers and partners for their joint working for the benefit of residents of the region.

20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 June 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

21 AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Submitted: A report of the Audit and Standards Committee (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which set out information on the work carried out by the Audit and Standards Committee during 2022/23. The report was introduced by Mr D Willis, the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee.

The Cabinet welcomed the report, thanked Mr Willis and the Audit and Standards Committee for their work and achievements and welcomed the inclusion of the

transitional arrangements in relation to the forthcoming mayoral combined authority for the seven councils' region into the committee's work program.

The Cabinet noted that the national issue of the lack of auditors remained live; and it had been discussed by the Public Accounts Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

22 **NTCA ANNUAL PAY POLICY 2023-24**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which provided information on NTCA's annual Pay Policy Statement and sought its approval. The report was introduced by J Gillespie, the Director of Finance.

RESOLVED – That the NTCA Pay Policy Statement as attached at Appendix A to the report be approved.

23 **INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE AND FUNDING APPROVALS**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on progress with the North of Tyne Investment and UKSPF programmes and sought associated approvals. The report was introduced by Councillor C Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Investment and Resources.

The Cabinet welcomed the report. Thanks were offered to members, officers and partners for their work and achievements.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Noted progress to date on the Investment Fund and UKSPF, achievement of key milestones and ongoing project development work, particularly in respect of the creation of new jobs for residents as a direct result of the NTCA investments.
- ii. Approved £184,304 of funding for the 'Working Well North Tyneside' project, which will be led by North Tyneside Council.
- iii. Authorised the Chief Executive to make final approvals and associated decisions relating to implementation, in accordance with existing delegations, for the £13.1m of projects described in the report, using Investment Fund and UKSPF resources.
- iv. Noted that the NTCA had been asked by Government to bring forward a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the area and agreed that Northumberland County Council would develop and prepare this Strategy; and

- v. Accepted the award of £285,000 of financial resources provided to the NTCA by Government for the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which would be in addition to the £48,804 of seed funding previously awarded, and delegated approval to the Director of Finance to agree the scope and terms for delivery of this work with Northumberland County Council.

24 **NTCA 2022/23 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 set out an updated position on the NTCA Draft 2022/23 Statement of Accounts. The report was introduced by J Gillespie, the Director of Finance.

The Cabinet also noted the updated position regarding the timetables for the completion of 2021/22 audit and the publication of the 2022/23 Draft Statement of Accounts.

RESOLVED – That the updated position on the publication of the 2022/23 North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) Draft Statement of Accounts be noted.

25 **2023-2024 QUARTER 1 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

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

The Cabinet considered the first quarter monitoring report on the 2023/24 financial position. The report was introduced by J Gillespie, the Director of Finance.

RESOLVED – That the 2023/24 forecast budget monitor position for the Combined Authority as set out in the following sections of the report: Section 2 - Corporate Budget, Section 3 - Investment Fund (including capital spend), Section 4 - UK Social Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), including Rural England Prosperity Fund and Multiply, Section 5 - Brownfield Housing Fund, Section 6 - Adult Education Budget (AEB), Section 7 - Bootcamps and Section 8 - Reserves position, be noted.

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

Tuesday, 26 September 2023 at 2pm.

27 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That, by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting for the duration of the consideration of agenda item 12 (Investment Fund Update and Funding Approvals – Appendix) because exempt information was likely to be disclosed and the public interest test against the disclosure was satisfied.