

Cabinet

12 March 2024

(2.03 - 2.54 pm)

Meeting held: Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF. This meeting was also streamed live on YouTube.

Minutes

Present:

Chair: Mayor J Driscoll

Councillors A Hay, C Johnson, K Kilgour and G Sanderson, Dame Mayor N Redfearn and Ms L Winskell

65 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Kemp.

66 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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

With this being the last meeting of Cabinet of the North of Tyne Combined Authority, the Mayor spoke about the authority's achievements since its establishment, which were particularly notable in the context of several complex national and international challenges during this time.

Thanks were offered to members, officers and partners, both past and present, for their work and commitment to achieving the best for the region.

The Cabinet members then offered their closing speeches and thanks to members, officers and partners for their aspirations, commitment, hard work, support, effective partnerships and cross-party collaboration.

68 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 January 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

69 **DELIVERING DEVOLUTION TOGETHER NORTH OF TYNE COMBINED AUTHORITY FINAL REPORT**

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

The Cabinet considered the annual report which set out the authority's work and achievements over the period of its lifetime and sought endorsement for *Delivering Devolution Together*. The report was introduced by H Kippin, the Chief Executive.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and thanked members and chief officers, both past and present, for the results achieved.

RESOLVED – That:

(i) *Delivering Devolution Together* be endorsed; and

(ii) The work and support of the Inclusive Economy Board, the Housing and Land Board and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Group be noted.

70 **EQUALITIES ASSEMBLIES AND OBJECTIVES**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which: provided the Equalities Assemblies' report called "Open the Door a Little Wider"; the third annual update on the NTCA performance against its Equality Objectives 2021-2025; and sought associated endorsements. The report was introduced jointly by Mayor J Driscoll and Councillor K Kilgour.

The Cabinet welcomed the report.

RESOLVED – That:

(i) The write-up from the Equalities Assemblies, which presented resident and employer experiences and case studies of barriers to work, as a result of inequality in the region, as set out in Appendix A, be endorsed; and

(ii) The progress made on NTCA's Equality Objectives and wider equality and diversity ambitions, as set out in Appendix B, be endorsed.

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 the delivery of the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) and sought endorsement of the approach to managing the Adult Education Budget delivery for the remainder of this academic year. The report was introduced by Councillor K Kilgour.

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

RESOLVED – That:

(i) the progress which had been made in terms of the Adult Education Budget delivery for the first half of the academic year 2024-2024 be noted; and

(ii) the approach to managing the Adult Education Budget delivery for the remainder of this academic year be endorsed.

72 SKILLS BOOTCAMPS 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 the performance of Skills Bootcamps in the financial year 2023-2024, and sought endorsement of the proposed approach to managing Skills Bootcamps for the remainder of the financial year. The report was introduced by Councillor K Kilgour.

The Cabinet welcomed the report.

RESOLVED – That:

(i) the performance of Wave 4 Skills Bootcamp delivery to date be noted; and

(ii) the approach to managing Skills Bootcamps for the remainder of the financial year 2023-24 be endorsed.

73 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 sought approval of the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023. The report was introduced by J Gillespie, the Director of Finance.

RESOLVED – That:

(i) The Statement of Accounts 2022/23, including the Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement, be approved; and

(ii) the Chief Finance Officer be authorised, in consultation with the Mayor and Chief Executive, to agree any final amendments or changes to the NTCA 2022/23 Statement of Accounts, Narrative Statement and Annual Governance Statement arising from the completion of the audit by the external auditors, and after taking account of the views of Audit and Standards Committee.

74 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: set out an update on the delivery of the North of Tyne Investment, Brownfield Housing and Business Case Development Fund programmes; provided an update on the work undertaken within the region and with Government to facilitate the release of early investment across the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA) area; 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 and officers for their work.

RESOLVED – That:

(i) Progress to date on the NTCA Investment Fund, Brownfield Housing Fund programmes and the ongoing project development work to deliver objectives previously agreed by Cabinet, particularly in respect of new job creation for residents as a direct result of the NTCA investments, be noted.

(ii) The Cabinet noted that the Chief Executive would, in accordance with existing delegations, make final approvals and associated decisions relating to implementation and funding awards, including procurement implications, for the £36.7m of project funding described in the report.

(ii) Additional funding allocations for existing projects, and the commencement of a procurement exercise, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report, be approved; and authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer to finalise arrangements, including, where appropriate, the agreement of a revised Delivery Plan.

(iii) The Cabinet noted that the additional capital and revenue funding had been provided through the North East Deeper Devolution Deal to accelerate delivery of regional priorities.

75 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There was no exclusion of press and public.

76 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The confidential minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Chair's Signature

The Chair signed this document on 22 April 2024, by email.