Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 12th June, 2014 at 3.00 pm

Members pre-meeting at 2pm
Formal meeting at 3.00 pm

Meeting to be held in a Town Hall and Civic Offices, Westoe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE33 2RL

www.northeastca.gov.uk

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

   Please remember to declare any personal interest where appropriate both verbally and by recording it on the relevant form (to be handed to the Democratic Services Officer). Please also remember to leave the meeting where any personal interest requires this.

3. **Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair**

4. **Work Programme**

5. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

   Members are invited to agree the dates of future meetings, as follows:

   Tuesday, 9 September at 2pm
   Tuesday, 9 December at 2pm
   Tuesday, 10 February at 2pm

   Venues to be confirmed.
To All Members
DATE: 12 June 2014
SUBJECT: Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair
REPORT OF: Vivienne Geary, Monitoring Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to invite the Committee to appoint its Chair and Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2014/15.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee appoints its Chair and Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2014/15
1 Background Information

1.1 The North East Combined Authority (the Authority) is created pursuant to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (LDEDCA 2009) and by the Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland Combined Authority Order 2014 (‘the Order’) which came into force on 15 April 2014.

1.2 The Authority is required to have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1.3 On 29 April 2014 the Authority appointed the Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising of 2 Members from each of the Constituent Authorities with 14 Members of the Committee in total.

1.4 Although there is no legal requirement for political balance in relation to the appointments made to the Committee because less than 3 Members have been appointed to the Committee from each Constituent Authority, political balance has been applied based on the political balance applicable within each Constituent Authority.

1.5 On 15 April 2015, the Under Secretary of State wrote to the Leaders of the Constituent Authorities regarding Overview and Scrutiny arrangements and requested that Combined Authorities give consideration to the importance of following good practice in relation to Overview and Scrutiny arrangements. The facets of good practice referred to are:

- the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should reflect the political balance of the Constituent Authorities;
- the Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should preferably not be a member of the political party to which the majority of the Authority’s members belong; and
- the Authority has proper regard to the reports and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1.5 At its meeting on 29 April 2014 the Leadership Board noted the views of the Under Secretary of State, including in respect of good practice when considering the process for identifying the Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Leadership Board agreed that the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair should be delegated to the Committee.
2 Proposals

2.1 The Committee is invited to appoint its Chair and Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2014/15.

3 Next Steps

3.1 Information on the appointment of the Committee’s Chair and Vice-Chair will be made available to all interested parties and published on the North East Combined Authority’s website.

4 Potential Impact on Objectives

4.1 This appointment will help the Committee to discharge its functions.

5 Finance and Other Resources

5.1 There are no direct financial or resource implications for the Authority in relation to the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee.

6 Legal

6.1 The appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee complies with the requirements under the Constitution of the Authority.

7 Other Considerations

7.1 Consultation/Community Engagement

The proposal set out in this report is the result of the decision of the Leadership Board which includes representatives of the seven constituent Councils.

7.2 Human Rights

There are no specific human rights implications arising from this report.

7.3 Equalities and Diversity

There are no specific equality and diversity implications arising from this report.
7.4 Risk Management

There are no specific risk management implications arising from this report.

7.5 Crime and Disorder

There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7.6 Environment and Sustainability

There are no specific environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

8 Background Documents

8.1 The Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland Combined Authority Constitution April 2014;

The report to the 29 April 2014 meeting of the North East Leadership Board titled “Appointment of Committee Membership (including Appointment of Co-opted Independent Members of the Governance Committee and Appointment of Independent Person), Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs and Appointment of External Auditors”; and

The draft minutes of the 29 April 2014 meeting of the North East Leadership Board.

9 Links to Plans in the Policy Framework

9.1 This report has no direct links to plans in the Policy Framework.

10 Appendices

10.1 There are no appendices.

11 Contact Officers

11.1 Vivienne Geary, Monitoring Officer.
E-mail address: Viv.Geary@northtynside.gov.uk  Tel: 0191 643 5339
12 Sign off

- Head of Paid Service ✓
- Monitoring Officer ✓
- Chief Finance Officer ✓
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to invite the Overview and Scrutiny Committee ("the Committee") to agree the procedure for determining the work programme for the Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/15.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee agrees the procedure for determining its work programme as set out in this report.
1 Background Information

1.1 The Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland Combined Order 2014 (‘the Order’) which came into force on 15 April 2014 specifies that the NECA must appoint one or more committees as an Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1.2 The Order requires at least one member from each of the Constituent Authorities to be appointed to the Committee. As the Leadership Board will be aware however, it was decided to appoint two members from each Constituent Authority based on the political balance that applies in each Constituent Authority.

1.3 The Committee can invite (not require) members of the Leadership Board to attend before it as well as other persons including members of the public to answer questions. The Committee fulfils a scrutiny role not only in respect of the Leadership Board of the NECA but also the Transport North East Committee (TNEC), the Tyne and Wear Sub Committee of TNEC (TWSC), any other committee, sub committee or joint committee of the NECA, NEXUS, Durham and Northumberland County Councils in relation to the discharge of their operational transport responsibilities and also the North East Local Enterprise Partnership insofar as the NECA undertakes the role accountable body for the Partnership.

1.4 The Committee as well as holding decision making bodies referred to above to account plays an important role in policy development and through invitation to present information or, subject to the agreement of the Committee, to raise issues to be addressed by those bodies provides an opportunity for external partners of the NECA and the community to participate in the scrutiny process.

1.5 The Committee will have an important role to play in assisting the NECA and the other decision making bodies referred to in the development, implementation and review of plans and strategies.

1.6 Given the important role that the Committee will play, it is important for the Committee to have a clear work programme in place based on the major decisions and issues that the NECA and the other decision making bodies will be dealing with in the municipal years 2014-15.
North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2 Proposals

2.1 The Committee is invited to agree that the Committee’s work programme should be developed prior to the next meeting of the Committee in September through consultation with the members of the Committee and in addition to the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Leadership Board, the Thematic Leads for Transport, Economic Development and Regeneration and Employability and Inclusion, the Chief Executives of the Constituent Authorities and relevant Officers within the Authorities, particularly Economic Directors and Transport Directors, NEXUS and the NELEP. A report on the proposed Work Programme for the remainder of the current year 2014/15 will be submitted to the next meeting for consideration and agreement.

2.2 In future years the programme will be submitted to the first meeting of the Committee in each new municipal year.

3 Next Steps

3.1 Once the principles for identifying the items to be included in the Committee’s work programme are agreed, consultation on the proposals for the Committee’s Work Programme will proceed.

4 Potential Impact on Objectives

4.1 By formulating a work programme for the Committee, it will ensure that the Committee can properly discharge its functions and play a full role in the policy development of the NECA, Nexus and the NELEP as well as introducing appropriate challenge to decisions taken.

5 Finance and Other Resources

5.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

6 Legal

6.1 The Constitution of the NECA makes provision for the Committee at its first meeting to agree a work programme and the areas of review and scrutiny. As the NECA has recently been established it has not been possible to identify in advance the areas of review and scrutiny. The procedure set out above will enable steps to be taken that will enable the Committee at its next meeting to agree the items to be included in the work programme.
7 Other Considerations

7.1 Consultation/Community Engagement

The proposal set out in this report has not been specifically consulted upon.

7.2 Human Rights

There are no specific human rights implications arising from this report.

7.3 Equalities and Diversity

There are no specific equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

7.4 Risk Management

There are no specific risk management implications arising from this report.

7.5 Crime and Disorder

There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7.6 Environment and Sustainability

There are no specific environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

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10 Appendices

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- Monitoring Officer ✓
- Chief Finance Officer ✓