

North East Combined Authority

North East Leadership Board

16 June 2015

Meeting held: Sunderland Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7SN

Present:

Councillor S Henig (Chair)

Councillors N Forbes, M Henry, I Malcolm and P Watson and Mayor N Redfearn

98 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Davey and Mr P Woolston.

99 **MEMBERSHIP OF THE NORTH EAST LEADERSHIP BOARD**

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

Members considered the report which invited them to:

- confirm the membership of the North East Leadership Board (the Leadership Board) for the municipal year 2015/16;
- appoint Chair and Vice-Chairs for the municipal year 2015/16;
- re-appoint the Thematic Leads for the municipal year 2015/16 for (a) Economic Development and Regeneration, (b) Employability and Inclusion and (c) Transport; and
- appoint two representatives from the North East Local Enterprise Partnership to the Leadership Board – a Member and a Substitute Member – for the municipal year 2015/16.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. The membership of the Leadership Board for the municipal year 2015/16 be confirmed as set out in Appendix A;
- II. Councillor Simon Henig be appointed as Chair of the Leadership Board for the municipal year 2015/16;
- III. Councillor Mick Henry and Mayor Norma Redfearn be appointed as Vice-Chairs of the Leadership Board for the municipal year 2015/16;
- IV. Paul Woolston be appointed as the Member of the Leadership Board representing the North East Local Enterprise Partnership;

- V. Gillian Hall be appointed as the Substitute Member of the Leadership Board representing the North East Local Enterprise Partnership; and
- VI. The following Thematic Leads be re-appointed for the municipal year 2015/16:
 - Councillor Paul Watson – Economic Development and Regeneration;
 - Councillor Grant Davey – Employability and Inclusion; and
 - Councillor Nick Forbes – Transport.

100 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

101 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 April 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

102 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND/OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

(a) **Developing a Devolution Prospectus for the North East Combined Authority - update on stakeholder engagement**

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

Members considered the report which set out key messages that were emerging from the consultation events with stakeholders on the potential greater devolution of funding, powers and responsibilities.

In introducing the report, the Chair referred to the following points:

- the potentially strong position of the Authority to be successful in securing greater devolution of funding, powers and responsibilities;
- the recent publication of the Draft Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill;
- the inclusiveness of the consultation events which had taken place at all constituent local authorities;
- the feedback from the consultation events, which had shown a clear support from the public and the business sector;
- the size of the North East Combined Authority's area and, following the governments' manifesto offering devolution to cities, the importance of seeking clarification and confirmation on whether an area of this size was included in the offer;
- the importance of the views of the public; and
- the importance on focusing on what was in the best interest for the region.

It was also noted that the consultation had shown that, whilst there was a strong recognition of the proposed priorities, one of the strong messages arising was the need for an overarching vision so that it was clear what the Authority was setting to achieve.

Amongst the matters discussed during the consideration of the report were the following:

- the comprehensive and expensive nature of the consultation which had provided opportunities for all constituent areas to respond;
- the importance of recognition that all proposals had been generated by the Authority and discussed by the Authority;
- the importance of focusing on what was best for the region;
- the importance of inclusion;
- the importance of continuing discussions with the government and avoiding ruling anything in or out at this stage;
- the importance of recognising that there were other models of governance;
- the importance of being mindful about concentrating heavily on the Elected Mayor issue, including by the media;
- the recent nature of the draft Bill;
- the need for a discussion on responsibilities;
- the importance of all constituent local authorities to work jointly on the proposals, avoiding delegations;
- the importance of honesty and openness as part of the process;
- the importance of a truly greater devolution of power, including fiscal and electoral, learning from the examples of Germany and USA. The importance of a legal right to exist long-term for greater long-term stability; and the need for the proposals to be more ambitious, bringing autonomy.
- the great people of the region and the ability to achieve great with the right support and tools from the government;
- the importance for the North to be given a higher priority and recognition;
- the importance of demanding devolution;
- the importance of continued discussions;
- the importance of getting the devolution right;
- the advantages of the structure of the Combined Authority in providing opportunities for the involvement of all seven local authorities;
- the ongoing discussions on several levels about devolution; and
- the importance of public involvement.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

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APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND AGREEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS, APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS, APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND APPOINTMENT OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

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

Members considered the report which sought their agreement to the continued establishment of the committees and sub-committees of the Authority and appointment of Members and Chairs and Vice-Chairs of those committees. The report also requested the Leadership Board to confirm the appointment of the Independent Members of the Governance Committee and to note the appointment

of the External Auditor of the Authority. It was noted that confirmation would be sought from South Tyneside Council on the Council's nominations for the Transport North East Committee and Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. the continued establishment of the committees and sub-committees for the municipal year 2015/16 as set out in Appendix A be agreed;
 - II. the nominations to each of the committees received from the constituent authorities as set out in Appendix A be accepted;
 - III. Councillor Nick Forbes be appointed as Chair of the Transport North East Committee for the municipal year 2015/16;
 - IV. Councillors Neil Foster and Allan Hepple be appointed as Vice-Chairs of the Transport North East Committee for the municipal year 2015/16;
 - V. The appointment of the third Vice-Chair of the Transport North East Committee from the Tyne and Wear local authorities for the municipal year 2015/16 be delegated to the Transport North East Committee;
 - VI. The appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2015/16 be delegated to the Transport North East Committee.
 - VII. Councillor Paul Watson be appointed as Chair of the Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board for the municipal year 2015/16;
 - VIII. The appointment of Vice-Chair of the Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board for the municipal year 2015/16 be delegated to the Advisory Board;
 - IX. The appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2015/16 be delegated to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
 - X. Mr Mark Scrimshaw and Mr George John Clark be appointed as Independent Members, and Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, of the Governance Committee for an initial period of three years, with the payment of a fee of £2,000 and £1,000 per annum, respectively, for fulfilling those roles; and
 - XI. the position in relation to the appointment of the External Auditor of the North East Combined Authority (NECA) be noted.
- (a) **Appointment and Designation of a Head of Paid Service for the North East Combined Authority (NECA)**

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

Members considered the report which sought their agreement to the appointment and designation of Adam Wilkinson as the Head of Paid Service for the North East Combined Authority (NECA), from 16 June 2015 for a period of 6 to 9 months on a part time basis equivalent to 3 days a week.

Members thanked Jane Robinson for her service.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. the appointment of Adam Wilkinson by the North East Combined Authority for a period of 6 to 9 months commencing on 16 June 2015 be agreed; and
- II. Adam Wilkinson be designated as the Head of Paid Service for the North East Combined Authority for the duration of the appointment

104 **REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION**

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

Members considered the report which sought their approval of the proposed changes to the Authority's Constitution.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. The changes to the Constitution of the North East Combined Authority as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be approved; and
- II. Consideration be given to reviewing the position in relation to the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee.

105 **PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS**

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

Members considered the report which sought their agreement to the programme of meetings of the committees and a sub-committee for the municipal year 2015/16.

RESOLVED – That the proposed programme of meetings, as set out in Appendix A, be agreed.

106 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 14 July 2015 at 2pm, at Northumberland County Council.