

North East Combined Authority

North East Leadership Board

16 September 2014

Meeting held: Town Hall and Civic Offices, Westoe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE33 2RL

Present:

Councillor Henig (Chair)

Councillors Forbes, Henry, Ledger, Malcolm and Watson, Mayor Redfearn and Ms Hall

39 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

40 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

41 **EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE LEADERSHIP BOARD OF THE NORTH EAST COMBINED AUTHORITY**

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

Members considered the report. During the ensuing discussion it was noted that the report covered events that had happened in the financial year 2013/14, up to 31 March 2014; any event after that date would be included in the 2014/15 audit. It was confirmed that the only major financial event that had happened in April 2014 was the transfer of a part of the reserves to local authorities. The next year set of accounts would be inclusive of all seven local authorities, including Durham and Northumberland.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

42 **ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2013/14**

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

Members considered the Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year 2014/15. During the ensuing discussion it was noted that the Annual Accounts had been seen by the Governance Committee on 12 September 2014 and whilst there had been many questions asked by the Committee, it had not raised any issues. The discussion also included the importance of understanding functions, roles,

responsibilities and governance of Nexus, particularly including its position within the context of the Combined Authority.

RESOLVED – That:

1. the Letter of Representation (Appendix 1) be approved;
2. the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to sign the Letter of Representation on behalf of the Authority;
3. the final ITA and Group Accounts for 2013/14 (Appendix 2) be approved;
4. the Chair and the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to sign the ITA and Group Accounts;
5. the Annual Governance Statement be approved (Appendix 3);
6. the Chair, the Head of Paid Service and the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement; and
7. a report be provided to a future meeting on the functions, roles, responsibilities and governance of Nexus, particularly including its position within the context of the Combined Authority.