

North East Combined Authority

Leadership Board (Extraordinary Meeting)

4 July 2016

Meeting held: Durham County Cricket Club, Chester-Le-Street, DH3 3QR

Present:

Councillor: P Watson (Chair)

Councillors G Davey, N Forbes, M Gannon, S Henig and I Malcolm, Mayor N Redfearn and Mr A Hodgson

REASON FOR THE MEETING

This extraordinary meeting was required to enable the Leadership Board to consider the following items within the relevant timetables as set out in the reports:

- The Governance Review and Scheme for the proposed Mayoral Combined Authority; and
- Local Growth Deal Round 3.

15 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (MEMBERS)**

There were no apologies for absence received.

16 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest during the part of the meeting that was open to the public.

17 **THE GOVERNANCE REVIEW AND SCHEME FOR THE PROPOSED MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY**

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

Members considered the report which provided information on the review undertaken into the functions exercised by the North East Combined Authority (NECA) and its governance arrangements and how additional powers and functions would be likely to improve the exercise of statutory functions in the NECA area.

The report was introduced by the Head of Paid Service who explained that the recommendations in the report needed to be amended to invite the Leadership Board to seek assurances from the Government as to the terms of the proposed

devolution deal and funding in the light of the outcome of the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union.

Members considered the alternative recommendations.

During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed concern about the current position and emphasised the need for long-term assurances over the terms of the devolution deal, particularly in relation to funding. Members also pointed out that it was important to remain committed to devolution for the North East.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The Authority would write to the Government and request assurances that the terms of the Devolution Agreement of October 2015 would be fully committed to; and
- ii. Upon the receipt and consideration of those assurances the Leadership Board would further consider approving the scheme prior to agreeing its publication.

18 **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 during the consideration of agenda item 6 (Local Growth Deal Round 3) because exempt information was likely to be disclosed and the public interest test against the disclosure was satisfied.