



Transport North East Committee

Monday 20th April, 2015, following the conclusion of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee, approximately at 3.30 pm

Members' Pre-meeting will be held following the conclusion of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee, approximately at 3 pm

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

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AGENDA

Page No

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. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 9 October 2014** **1 - 4**

For approval as a correct record
4. **Notes of the Inquorate Meeting held on 4 December 2014** **5 - 8**

For confirmation as a correct record
5. **Notes of the Inquorate Meeting held on 26 February 2015** **9 - 12**

For confirmation as a correct record

6. **Transport for the North**

Members are requested to note the intention to circulate the above report on a supplemental agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

7. **Transport Plan for the North East**

Members are requested to note the intention to circulate the above report on a supplemental agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

8. **Office for Low Emission Vehicles Go Ultra Low City Scheme Funding Opportunity**

Members are requested to note the intention to circulate the above report on a supplemental agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9. **Rail Update**

Members are requested to note the intention to circulate the above report on a supplemental agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

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

Provisional date (subject to confirmation at the Annual Meeting):

Thursday, 9 July 2015 at 3.30pm or following the conclusion of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee

Contact Officer: Victoria Miller Tel: 0191 211 5118 E-mail: victoria.miller@newcastle.gov.uk

To All Members

North East Combined Authority

Transport North East Committee

9 October 2014

Meeting held North Tyneside Council, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, NE27 0BY

Present:

Councillor: Forbes (Chair)

Councillors: Foster, M Green, Hobson, Lott, McCarty, McElroy, Speding, Watson and West

18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen, S Green, Ledger and Swithenbank.

19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 July 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

21 IMPROVING LOCAL BUS SERVICES

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

Members considered the report which provided an update on the progress of the Bus Strategy Delivery Project (BSDP). The ensuing discussion centred on the elements of the project such as ticketing and fares, the role and responsibilities of the Quality Contract Board, the robustness of the proposed Collaboration Protocol to mitigate risks for Durham and Northumberland, potential impact on the existing network, including its possible expansion, consultation with the public and other stakeholders, changes to Concessionary Travel Scheme and roll out of smart ticketing within the context of the options for the delivery of the Bus Strategy.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. the proposals for a Quality Contracts Scheme (QCS) for Tyne and Wear and a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) be noted; and

- II. the proposal that, if the Leadership Board would agree to proceed with a QCS, then the North East Combined Authority (NECA) would adopt a Cross Boundary Collaboration Protocol to manage the effects of the QCS on bus services in Durham and Northumberland, be noted.

22 PROSPECTUS FOR INVESTMENT IN THE EAST COAST MAIN LINE

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

Members considered the report which provided information on the key findings from the Prospectus for Investment in the East Coast Main Line (ECML) that had been recently produced by the Consortium of East Coast Main Line Authorities.

The ensuing discussion included matters such as:

- the value of the benefit that would be generated on the ECML by the services from High Speed 2 (HS2), concerns about the benefits of HS2 for the North East and the importance of an equal economic benefits for the North East;
- the importance of developing a good programme to attract investment and increase the capacity of the rail, including for the additional freight being produced;
- the need for more information for Members on rail as a whole, including on the comparison of the current and previous positions and examples of other countries;
- the need for further wider discussions on rail and the importance of including all regional partners in these discussions, including at relevant seminars; and
- the need for discussions on critical connections, frequency, regularity, sustainability and integration of rail and services.

It was noted that a briefing should be organised for Members on rail, possibly as part of a policy seminar.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

23 REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15 - MONITORING REPORT

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

Members considered the report which provided a progress update in relation to how the transport related budgets for the delivery agencies for 2014/15 were being managed. The ensuing discussion included matters such as the Metro income, the need for a discussion on the Concessionary Travel Scheme within the context of the existing public transport network and the need for a fair access to the whole region by public transport.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

24 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/15 - MONITORING REPORT

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

Members considered the report which provided a progress update in relation to the delivery of the transport related capital programme for 2014/15.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

25 CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL BUDGET 2014/15

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

Members considered the report which provided further information regarding the breakdown of the concessionary travel budget, as requested at the 29 July 2014 meeting. The report also highlighted the position with regards to the national funding for the statutory Concessionary Travel Scheme and the pressure on councils' budgets as the cuts in national funding were not matched by a reduction in the cost of concessionary travel.

The ensuing discussion included matters such as:

- the importance of continuing to lobby the government and the importance of lobbying jointly across the whole NECA area for added strength;
- the increased cost of concessionary travel as opposed to the official figures;
- funding of concessionary travel for Transport for London;
- the responsibilities of the three delivery agencies for the administration of concessionary fares schemes and their powers in relation to the provision of additional discretionary concessions; and
- the importance of considering the opportunity to develop a joint policy on concessionary travel across the NECA area whilst identifying any practical difficulties and the amount of work this could entail.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. the contents of this report, in particular section 5 which advised of the scale of the Concessionary Travel budget across the NECA area and also the differences in Scheme arrangements, particularly the different discretionary add-ons that prevailed across all three Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs) be noted;
- II. the information on the additional costs of special needs home to school transport within the budgets of the seven constituent councils in their capacity as Local Education Authorities be noted;
- III. the underfunding of the concessionary travel scheme costs in Tyne and Wear and the cuts that continue to be applied to the grant funding for Concessionary Travel funding and the growing gap between the cost and

funding for statutory concessionary travel at a local and national level be noted;

- IV. the lobbying activities on the need to address the inadequacy of funding for the statutory concessionary fares scheme be continued and developed as a joint lobbying on behalf of the whole NECA area for additional strength; and
- V. consideration be given to developing a joint concessionary travel scheme within the NECA context.

26 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting would be held on 26 February 2015 at 2pm at Northumberland County Council.

There would be an extraordinary meeting on budget in early December 2014.

North East Combined Authority

Transport North East Committee

4 December 2014

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

Present:

Councillor: Lott (in Chair)

Councillors: Foster, M Green, S Green, Hobson, J McCarty, McElroy, Speding and West

Notes of Inquorate Meeting

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen, Forbes, Ledger, Swithenbank and Watson.

The meeting was not quorate. Members decided to proceed informally so that their comments on transport budget could be gathered in advance of the report being written to the January meeting of the North East Leadership Board on the overall budget 2015/16 for the North East Combined Authority (NECA).

Members asked that consideration should be given to the appointment of substitute members to the Committee. In response, it was noted that this matter was being addressed; work was in progress to consider the feasibility of appointing substitute members for committees of NECA.

28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

29 TRANSPORT BUDGET 2015/16

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

(a) Transport Revenue Budget and Levies 2015/16

Members considered the report which provided a progress update in relation to the transport related budgets for the delivery agencies for 2014/15. The report also set out the latest information about the draft transport budgets and transport levies for 2015/16 for consideration and comment in order to inform a report on budget for the 20 January 2015 meeting of the North East Leadership Board.

During the ensuing discussion it was noted that:

- A Member commented on the lack of clarity, separation and ring-fencing in relation to the transport part of the grant funding for local authorities from the government. A Member also commented that this clarity was needed particularly for understanding implications in relation to the funding of the statutory concessionary travel scheme. A Member suggested that reference should also be made to the availability of accurate data on the use of concessionary travel from smart technology. It was noted that the forthcoming consultation on the Local Government Finance Settlement would provide an opportunity to feed these comments in.
- A Member welcomed the report.
- Members commented that it was important to lobby the government in relation to funding for concessionary travel.
- A Member welcomed the significant investment in the important areas of priority for the North East Combined Authority area.
- Members commented on the importance of making sure that Metro services were efficient and effective. Members referred to complaints from residents about disruptions to services. In response, B Garner referred to the apologies that had been offered at the last meeting of the Committee for the performance of the Metro services earlier in the autumn and explained the reasons for this performance. These were the low rail adhesion which had impacted on the speed of trains and the poor performance of the train fleet. It was noted that improvements had been seen in November. It was also noted that DB Regio was working closely with Nexus to drive improvements.

AGREED – That:

- i. the report be noted;
- ii. Members' comments be noted;
- iii. the contents of the report should form the basis for an overall draft budget for NECA for 2015/16, for consideration by the NECA Leadership Board in January, taking into account any comments that might be received from the budget consultation; and
- iv. The performance of the Metro services be added as a topic for discussion at the forthcoming policy seminar.

(b) Transport Capital Programme 2015/16

Members considered the report which outlined the proposals for the Capital Programme during 2015/16 and the funding sources that had been identified to deliver the programme, which covered a wide range of transport improvements and initiatives.

During the ensuing discussion it was noted that:

- A Member welcomed the significant investment across the NECA area that, amongst other improvements, should bring improvements for cyclists and Metro users, help to improve road safety and address road congestion for car drives, which would bring improvements to all road users. A Member also welcomed the upcoming re-opening of the Tyne Pedestrian and Cyclist Tunnels.
- A Member made a reference to the Chancellor's Autumn Statement which had been announced after the publication of the report.
- Members welcomed the funding position in relation the Metro Asset Renewal Plan, as in recommendation 4.

AGREED – That:

- I. The transport capital programme as set out in the report be recommended for the inclusion in the NECA capital programme that would be recommended to the Leadership Board on 20 January 2015;
- II. Members recommended the distribution of the Tyne and Wear share of the LTP Integrated Transport Block grant to the Tyne and Wear Districts;
- III. A further report be received following the delivery of the 2014/15 programme, ensuring that any variations during the remainder of the current financial year were accommodated in the capital programme;
- IV. Members noted that for planning purposes, Nexus had received a verbal confirmation that the Department for Transport (DfT) Investment Board had resolved at its 11 November meeting, that full (100%) funding for the Metro Asset Renewal Plan for 2016/17 was to be confirmed, with an increase from 50% to 75% funding for years 2017/18 and 2018/19. In addition, Nexus had received a positive feedback from a recent DfT commissioned audit and full (100%) funding for years 2017/18 and 2018/19 was expected to be confirmed, subject to a further review as part of Spending Review 2015 in late 2015; and
- V. Members' comments be noted.

30 **DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NEXUS**

It was noted that B Garner, the Director General of Nexus, was leaving Nexus. Members thanked B Garner for his work on delivering and improving public transport services and congratulated him on his achievements.

31 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, 26 February 2015 at 2pm at Northumberland.

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North East Combined Authority

Transport North East Committee

26 February 2015

Meeting held: Gateshead Civic Centre, Regent Road, Gateshead, NE8 1HH

Notes of Inquorate Meeting

Present:

Councillor: Foster (Chair)

Councillors: Allen, Foster, M Green, Lott, J McCarty, McElroy, Speding, Watson and West

32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Forbes, S Green, Hobson and Ledger.

It was noted that the proposals for substitute members would be re-submitted to the North East Leadership Board in April 2015 for consideration.

33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

34 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2014

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 October 2014 were noted. The minutes would be re-submitted to the next ordinary meeting for approval.

35 NOTES OF INQUORATE MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2014

The notes of the inquorate meeting held on 4 December 2014 were noted. The notes would be re-submitted to the next ordinary meeting for confirmation.

36 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/15 - MONITORING REPORT

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

Members noted and discussed the report which provided an update on progress in relation to the delivery of the transport related capital programme for 2014/15. This is a summary of the matters discussed:

- The financial position and risk management in relation to the Metro Asset Renewal Programme, including over-programming to accommodate any

slippages, risk management during period 11, the improved recent position and the regular communication arrangements with the Department for Transport (DfT).

- The importance of Members receiving comprehensive information on the Metro ARP programme over a longer period of time.
- The background, partners, progress, including pilot schemes, technological issues and timescales in relation to the North East Smart Ticketing Initiative (NESTI).
- The importance of continuing to work to progress NESTI and the importance of working to include other rail providers in the scheme.
- The works to improve safety of the level crossings.

AGREED – That the report be noted.

37 **REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15 - MONITORING REPORT**

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

Members noted and discussed the report which provided an update on progress in relation to how the transport budgets for the delivery agencies for 2014/15 were being managed. It was noted that the travel and subsistence expenses set out in Appendix B included staff and members' travel expenses and also expenses incurred by the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) in the period before the establishment of the Combined Authority.

AGREED – That the report be noted.

38 **LOCAL HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE CHALLENGE FUND**

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

Members noted and discussed the report which set out information on the new approach for bidding for the highway maintenance fund from DfT and asked Members to note the content of the letter that had been submitted to DfT on behalf of the Combined Authority in support of the proposed bids. During the discussion, Members discussed the probability of obtaining funding for the bids and noted that feedback was expected on each of the bids.

AGREED – That the contents of the letter that had been submitted to the Department for Transport on 6 February 2015 on behalf of the North East Combined Authority in support of the bids for the highway maintenance fund be noted.

39 OFFICE FOR LOW EMISSION VEHICLES GO ULTRA LOW CITY SCHEME FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

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

Members noted the report which provided details of the Go Ultra Low City Scheme, including expected timeframes and the approach that the North East Combined Authority proposed to follow in the submission of bids.

AGREED – That the report be re-submitted to the next ordinary meeting for approval.

40 DISCHARGE OF DELEGATED TRANSPORT FUNCTIONS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL IN 2014

Submitted: A report of the Vice-Chairman with Portfolio Responsibility for Transport for Durham County Council (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members noted and discussed the report which provided information on how Durham County Council had discharged transport functions in the period from April to December 2014, as delegated to it by the North East Combined Authority. The discussion included the approach taken by the council to support non-commercial routes and the types of fares on those routes.

AGREED – That the report be noted.

41 DISCHARGE OF DELEGATED TRANSPORT FUNCTIONS BY NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL IN 2014

Submitted: A report of the Lead Executive Director, Northumberland County Council (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members noted and discussed the report which provided an update on the discharge of the delegated functions in relation to transport at Northumberland County Council. The discussion included the proposed approach to provide a degree of alignment of services through a collaboration protocol under a quality contract scheme and the importance of examining opportunities for working towards a better harmonisation of fares across the region.

AGREED – That:

(i) the report be noted; and

(ii) the transport responsibilities of Northumberland County Council and the activities undertaken in 2014 be noted.

42 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

April 2015, date and time to be confirmed.

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