

North East Combined Authority, Leadership Board

18 July 2017

(2.14 - 2.45 pm)

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

APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

Councillor : P Watson(Chair)

Councillors: M Gannon, S Henig, P Jackson, I Malcolm and Mayor N Redfearn

QUORUM

The meeting began as an inquorate meeting.

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor V Dunn (observing)

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (MEMBERS)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Forbes and Mr A Hodgson.

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14 UPDATES FROM THEMATIC LEADS

(a) Economic Development and Regeneration

Submitted: An update report of the Thematic Lead for Economic Development and Regeneration (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an update on activity and progress under the Economic Development and Regeneration theme of the Combined Authority.

The report was introduced by the Thematic Lead who drew Members' attention to key areas of progress and also mentioned the continuous work to minimise the

impact of the UK leaving the European Union and ensure the area did not lose funding as a result.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

Quorum

During the consideration of the report Councillor S Henig joined the meeting and the meeting became quorate.

(b) Employability and Inclusion

Submitted: An update report of the Thematic Lead for Employability and Inclusion (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided information on the latest progress made in delivering the Employability and Inclusion and Skills themes of the Strategic Economic Plan. The report was introduced by the Thematic Lead who drew Members' attention to key areas of progress and made references to the cross-over of the thematic lead areas.

The ensuing discussion focused on the importance of securing funding that could be lost as a result of Brexit in order to ensure projects could continue. Members noted information from the Head of Paid Service on the work to lobby the government on this matter and also on the funding secured and expected.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

(c) Transport and Digital Connectivity

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

Members considered the report which provided an update on progress of activities that were helping to deliver the key principles of the Transport Manifesto.

Clarification was provided on the current position with regard to work to secure funding for new rolling stock for Metro, including sources of funding and potential financial models and timescales, including their dependence on the position of the Department for Transport (DfT) and Treasury. Concern was expressed about the approach by the government to this matter, the timescales, delays and their impact. Concern was also expressed about risks associated with entering into long-term contractual obligations that involved private financing.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 June 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

16 **TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH (TFN) - INCORPORATION AS A SUB-NATIONAL TRANSPORT BODY**

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

RESOLVED – That the consideration of the report be deferred to allow further discussions.

17 **FINANCE UPDATE - 2016/17 OUTTURN AND 2017/18 UPDATE**

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

Members considered the report which presented the outturn position for 2016/17 against the revenue budget and the capital programme and provided an update on the revenue budget and capital programme for 2017/18.

As an update, Members noted comments made recently by the Governance Committee with regard to the presentation of reserves suggesting it should be expanded to show that a large proportion of reserves was ring-fenced.

Clarification was provided on the timescales for the completion of the refurbishment works to the Tyne Pedestrian and Cyclist Tunnels which were scheduled to reopen in spring 2018.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The outturn position on the revenue budget and the capital programme for 2016/17 as set out in the report be noted; and
- ii. The update about the revenue budget position and capital programme for 2017/18 be noted.

18 **PROJECT APPROVALS - LOCAL GROWTH FUND**

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

Members considered the report which sought grant funding agreement for the following two projects in the approved Local Growth Fund (LGF) programme:

- A185/A104/A19 (The Arches) scheme in South Tyneside; and
- A19 North Bank of Tyne (Swans site) in North Tyneside.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. A full Grant Funding Agreement of £6.35 million to deliver the Traffic movements along A185/A194/A19 (The Arches) scheme be approved. This was in addition to the stage 1 agreement for £650,000 that had been

approved by Leadership Board on 17 January 2017 and had been subject to South Tyneside Council's Cabinet approval of the Works Contractor;

- ii. A full Grant Funding Agreement of £4.525 million to deliver the A19 to North Bank of Tyne (Swans site and Port of Tyne) scheme be approved. This was in addition to the stage 1 agreement for £175k that had been approved by Leadership Board 17 January 2017; and
- iii. The Monitoring Officer be authorised to finalise and enter into any legal and Grant Funding documentation required to enable these schemes of the approved Local Growth Funding programme to proceed.

19 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 19 September 2017 at 2pm.

20 **APPOINTMENT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

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

Members considered the report which sought their agreement to the designation of Charles Peter Judge as the Monitoring Officer for the North East Combined Authority on a fixed term basis.

RESOLVED – That agreement be given to the designation of Charles Peter Judge as the Monitoring Officer for the North East Combined Authority for 3 days a week on a 12 months fixed term basis.

THANKS TO VIVIENNE GEARY, THE OUTGOING MONITORING OFFICER OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY

The Chair, on behalf of the Leadership Board, thanked Vivienne Geary for her work as the Monitoring Officer of the Combined Authority and praised the quality of her work.

21 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There was no exclusion of press and public.

22 **TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH (TFN) - INCORPORATION AS A SUB-NATIONAL TRANSPORT BODY - BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The consideration of the relevant agenda item (agenda item 5) was deferred for further discussions.