

## **North East Combined Authority, Transport North East Committee**

30 November 2017

### **Approved Minutes**

Meeting held Committee Room, Gateshead Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 1HH

#### **Present:**

Councillor : N Forbes(Chair)

Councillors: J Harrison, M Green, J McElroy, A West and Shaw

#### **21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr McCarty (Newcastle), Cllr Mordey (Sunderland), Cllr Speding (Sunderland), Cllr Sanderson (Northumberland), Cllr Marshall (Durham) and Cllr Hobson (South Tyneside)

#### **22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

#### **23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **24 KEY ROAD NETWORK**

Submitted: Report of the Managing Director (Transport Operations) (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes).

The report explained the purpose behind the creation of a Key Road Network (KRN) and the proposed criteria for a road to be included in the KRN for the North East (set out in section 1.9 of the report).

The creation of such a network would identify main road traffic routes for people and freight across the NECA area, was economically important and would assist with funding bids to Central Government.

One member of the committee referred to the importance of some 'C' roads such as the road through Kielder which was a strategic road and should be included in the Key Road Network.

**RESOLVED** that –

- i) The Transport North East Committee endorsed the creation of a North East Key Road network which identifies the main road traffic routes for people and freight across the NECA area.
- ii) The report be recommended to the Leadership Board for approval.

## 25 **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Submitted: Report of the Lead Chief Executive for Transport (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes)

Consideration was given to the report the purpose of which was to update Committee on progress being made with the Go Ultra Low (GUL) Programme and work being carried out to streamline and make best use of existing local government based Electric Vehicle (EV) charging resources in the North East Combined Authority area.

The report included details of the partnership work with Newcastle University on the installation of two EV filling stations and a progress update on rapid clusters which it was hoped would be operational by summer 2018.

During discussion the following issues and comments emerged:

- The importance of the programme.
- A comment was made that manufacturers had as yet not quite taken to the 'green agenda' and pressure was needed to change opinion.
- Reference was made to fuel retailers such as Shell who were looking to install rapid charging points and how this would link into the infrastructure referred to in the report.
- The importance of universally accessible charging points.
- Educating potential buyers to the benefits of electric cars and instilling the confidence needed to purchase such a vehicle.
- Privately owned car parks where charging points have been installed but are not being used.
- Reference was made to new developments and whether the developers were encouraged to install charging points.
- A member reminded committee that whilst the programme was a good move forward and in the right direction, it was equally important to continue to

encourage the public to swap from car usage to public transport. It was also felt that the seven authorities should adopt a common approach.

Further points to note were how EV filling stations could compliment car parks where rapid charging points are installed; the types/models of chargers available; the inconsiderate use of charging points and how new developments will soon be legally required to install cable networks as part of the infrastructure of new developments.

**RESOLVED** – that the Transport North East Committee noted the report.

## 26 **TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH UPDATE**

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

Members had considered the report which provided an update on progress being made in three areas of TfN activity, namely; Governance, the Strategic Transport Plan and Northern Powerhouse Rail. NECA has now provided its consent to the establishment of TfN as a Sub-National body and each of the Local Highways Authorities have also taken the regulations through their own decision making process and formally consented.

Also noted was an update on the Strategic Transport Plan and Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) (in respect of the HS2 infrastructure).

**RESOLVED** that the Transport North East Committee noted the progress in respect of:

- i) TfN governance
- ii) The development of the TfN Strategic Transport Plan
- iii) The progress being made on Northern Powerhouse Rail

## 27 **EXTERNAL BIDDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRANSPORT**

Submitted: Report of the Managing Director (Transport Operations) previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minute Book.

Members received the report which provided an update on funding opportunities during 2017 – 18 from Central Government. The report set out the funding streams that have been or are anticipated to be available this financial year and sets out where the NECA area has been successful in gaining funding.

**RESOLVED** – that the report be noted.

## 28 **METRO FUTURES NEW FLEET PROCUREMENT UPDATE**

Submitted: Report of the Lead Chief Executive for Transport (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes) which provided an update on the Metro Futures programme including progress with the DfT funding process, a fleet

specification summary and sought a decision on the seating layout for the new Metrocars.

The Chair, on behalf of the Transport North East Committee, asked that the committee's considerable thanks to the Managing Director (Transport Operations) and his team be noted for the tremendous amount of work and commitment given to achieving a successful result, not only in securing the funding needed for the fleet replacement programme but for successfully avoiding costly PFI schemes.

Members received an update on the £337m grant funding secured, which would be increased to £362m through Nexus' local contribution; government had now confirmed this in writing. Reference was made to the support received from a wide range of local stakeholders including passenger groups and businesses. It was noted that final costs would be determined by the bidding process.

During discussion members considered the concerns raised by Sunderland Council regarding the 'longitudinal style of seating; Sunderland felt that a hybrid seating arrangement would be more appropriate and arguments were advanced about the issue.

At this point the Monitoring Officer advised the meeting that, in order to consider this amendment, it was necessary that the Committee suspend rules of procedure.

Cllr Trueman, Sunderland City Council, moved that the second recommendation be deleted and replaced with the following amended recommendation:

*“Specify a hybrid seating plan in the fleet specification for the new fleet of Metrocars, so as to maximise availability of seating and to allow greater comfort in standing”*

At this point the Monitoring Officer advised the meeting that, in order to consider this amendment, it was necessary that the Committee suspend rules of procedure.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the rules of procedure be suspended.

Cllr Truman's amendment was proposed and seconded. The Chair put the amendment to the meeting. Following debate the amendment was put to the vote. The proposed amendment was defeated.

**RESOLVED** that the Transport North East Committee –

- i) Noted the current position in regard to funding arrangements for the new fleet.
- ii) Endorsed Nexus' intention to specify longitudinal seating in the fleet specification for the new fleet of Metrocars.
- iii) Noted that Nexus intends to seek endorsement of the Leadership Board before commencing any procurement process for new rolling stock, rolling stock maintenance and new rolling stock maintenance facilities.

Submitted: Report of the Managing Director (Transport Operations) (previously circulated and a copy attached to the official minutes).

Members noted the update report which informed them of the current state of play of the various rail projects being progressed in the North East.

**RESOLVED** – that the Transport North East Committee agreed to support the continued progress of the schemes aimed at improving the short and medium term rail services in the North East

### 30 **DRAFT TRANSPORT BUDGET AND LEVIES 2018/19**

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

The purpose of the report was to provide the Transport North East Committee with a summary of the latest information about the draft transport budgets and transport levies for 2018/19 for consideration and comment in order to inform the recommendations to be made in the report to the NECA Leadership Board.

Members noted the draft transport budget and levies 2018/19 for Durham and Northumberland County Councils and the five authorities in Tyne and Wear. It was further noted that the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub Committee had met on 21 November and proposed a deficit budget supported by reserves.

All authorities in the NECA area had already been given the opportunity to contribute to the budget proposals therefore it was –

**RESOLVED** that the Transport North East Committee –

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Noted the current position with regard to the development of the overall potential transport net revenue budget of £83.690m proposed for 2018/19 as set out in section 2.1.1.
- iii) Considered the proposals and any comments or information that should be included in the report to the NECA Leadership Board about the draft budget proposal for future years.
- iv) Noted that members of the committee will be informed of the results of the consultation and given the opportunity to comment on Transport proposals that will be included in the NECA Leadership Board report to be considered on 16 January 2018.

### 31 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING UPDATE**

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

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the 2017/18 Transport Capital Programme at the end of the second quarter of the year.

**RESOLVED** - the Transport North East Committee noted the report.

**32 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE**

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

Members considered the report which provided an update on the 2017/18 revenue budget at the end of the second quarter. It was noted that in respect of Durham County Councils' transport levy budget 2017/18 update that the forecast demonstrated a small overspend of £0.170m. The latest forecast in relation to Northumberland County Councils' transport levy budget 2017/18 update demonstrated an underspend in the current financial year for both Concessionary Fares and Subsidised Bus Services.

**RESOLVED** – that the Transport North East Committee noted the position at the end of the second quarter and the forecast for the 2017/18 financial year.

**33 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

8 February 2018, 2.00pm at South Tyneside Council

**34 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** – that by virtue of paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting during the consideration of agenda item 15 (Confidential Minutes of the Previous Meeting, Transport for the North (TfN) - Incorporation as a Sub-National Transport Body – background information) because exempt information was likely to be disclosed and the public interest test against disclosure was satisfied

**35 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2017**

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair