

North East Combined Authority

North East Leadership Board

15 July 2014

Meeting held: Committee Room, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH

Present:

Councillor Henig (Chair)

Councillors Davey, Henry, Kerr, McCarty and Trueman, Mayor Redfearn and Ms Hall

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Forbes, Malcolm and Watson and Mr Woolston.

17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McCarty declared a non-participation interest in agenda item 12 – The North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) – Funding Agreements due to being the Deputy Leader of Newcastle City Council and Newcastle City Council having a financial interest in one of the funding agreements, and left the room during the consideration of the relevant part of the item.

Mayor Redfearn declared a non-participation interest in agenda item 12 - The North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) – Funding Agreements due to being the Elected Mayor of North Tyneside Council and North Tyneside Council having a financial interest in one of the funding agreements, and left the room during the consideration of the relevant part of the item.

18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

19 POLICY UPDATE

(a) Transport Policy Update

Submitted:

- (i) A joint report of the Thematic Lead for Transport and a representative of the Economic Directors Group (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes);
- (ii) A supplemental joint report of the Thematic Lead for Transport and a representative of the Economic Director's Group (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes); and

- (iii) North East Rail Statement (with the Chair's permission, due to the timetables involved circulated at the meeting and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided information on various strategic and policy matters in relation to transport that were within the remit of the Combined Authority. The report also sought Members' permission to develop a transport strategy for the Combined Authority and to retain the Assurance Framework for the Local Transport Body. The report also sought the enforcement of the North East Rail Statement and invited the Leadership Board to participate as a full and active partner in Rail North and join the proposed Association of Northern Transport Authorities.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The Leadership Board noted the opportunities provided by the new Combined Authority to improve integrated transport across the region and to enhance influence on national decisions affecting the connectivity of the North East;
- ii. Approval be given to the development of the North East Combined Authority Transport Strategy to provide a high-level strategic overview of the Authority's aspirations for transport improvements across the region;
- iii. Agreement be given to the retention of the Assurance Framework that had been agreed by the seven councils to underpin their previous role in setting transport investment priorities as a Local Transport Body, subject to changes which reflected the new Combined Authority arrangements;
- iv. The North East Rail Statement that had been agreed with partners in the Tees Valley through the Association of North East Councils, as circulated at the meeting, be endorsed;
- v. The Leadership Board accepted that the North East Combined Authority should participate as a full and active partner in Rail North and join the proposed Association of Northern Transport Authorities; and
- vi. Members wishing to suggest additional matters for the inclusion in the future policy updates on transport would contact the Thematic Lead for Transport.

(b) Economic Development and Regeneration Update

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

Members considered the report which provided information on the opportunities provided by the new Combined Authority in relation to economic development and regeneration and the issues arising. The report also invited Members to agree the initial scope of the economic and regeneration thematic lead area. During the

ensuing discussion, a Member highlighted the importance of ensuring that any work on economic development and regeneration linked closely with the Strategic Economic Plan.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The initial scope of the Economic Development and Regeneration Thematic Lead Area be agreed;
- ii. The Leadership Board noted the opportunities provided by the new Combined Authority and the economic development and regeneration issues arising; and
- iii. Members wishing to suggest additional matters for the inclusion in the future policy updates on economic development and regeneration would contact the Thematic Lead for Economic Development and Regeneration.

(c) **Employability, Inclusion and Skills Update**

Submitted: A 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 opportunities provided by the new Combined Authority and the employability, inclusion and skills issues that were arising.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The Leadership Board noted the opportunities provided by the new Combined Authority and the employability, inclusion and skills issues that were arising; and
- ii. Members wishing to suggest additional matters for the inclusion in the future policy reports on employability, inclusion and skills would contact the Thematic Lead for Employability and Inclusion.

20 **RAIL CAPABILITIES DOCUMENT**

Submitted:

- (i) A joint report of the Chair of the Authority and two representatives of the Economic Directors Group (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes); and
- (ii) “Rail Capabilities – Our contribution to the future of Britain’s railways” (previously circulated on a supplemental agenda for agenda item 4(a) and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided information on the potential impact of the planned extension of the High Speed Rail network and the opportunities it could bring for the area's educational establishments and regional supply chain. The report also described the Government's aspiration to establish a High Speed Rail College, and the Combined Authority and the Local Enterprise Partnership's potential to collaborate with the College when it was announced and to contribute to the construction of the High Speed Rail Network as a whole.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The North East Leadership Board noted the opportunity for collaboration with the planned High Speed Rail College; and
- ii. The "Rail Capabilities" document be endorsed as the North East Combined Authority's collaborative offer to both the future High Speed Rail College and to the Government.

21 **NECA RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO AMEND LEGISLATION RELATING TO COMBINED AUTHORITIES AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY BOARDS**

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

Members considered the report which informed them of a response that had been prepared and submitted on behalf of the Authority to the Department for Communities and Local Government to the consultation on proposals to amend legislation relating to combined authorities and economic prosperity boards.

RESOLVED – That the Leadership Board noted that a response to the consultation on proposals to amend legislation relating to combined authorities and economic prosperity boards had been submitted, and noted the contents of the response as attached at appendix 1 to the report.

22 **EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS: SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Submitted: A report of the Chief Executive of South Tyneside Council (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which informed them that a response had been prepared and submitted to the Government in response to their invitation for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) to prepare an initial Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) Plan for the area. The report also invited Members to note the benefits of a SUD Plan.

RESOLVED – That the Leadership Board noted the benefits of a Sustainable Urban Development Plan and welcomed the submission to the Government of the area's

proposal to prepare a Sustainable Development Plan as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy.

23 **UPDATE ON THE MEMBERSHIP 2014/15**

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

Members considered the report which provided an update on the changes to the membership of the committees of the North East Combined Authority and also the joint committees, and also invited the Leadership Board to give delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to accept in-year changes to the membership of committees, sub-committees and joint committees.

RESOLVED – That:

(i) The Leadership Board noted and accepted the changes to the membership of the committees of the North East Combined Authority and the joint committees as set out in paragraph 1.1 of this report subject to the amendment of section 1.1 to reflect that in relation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee it was Councillor Norma Wright who had replaced Councillor Richard David Tate;

(ii) Mr Paul Woolston be appointed as the North East Local Enterprise Partnership's Member on the North East Combined Authority for the Municipal Year 2014/15;

(iii) Ms Gillian Hall be appointed as the North East Local Enterprise Partnership's Substitute Member on the North East Combined Authority for the Municipal Year 2014/15;

(iv) The Leadership Board noted the position in relation to the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Transport North East Committee, Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in paragraph 1.3 of the report; and

(v) Delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer to accept on behalf of the Leadership Board in-year changes to the membership of committees, sub-committees and joint committees, and these changes be notified in writing to the Monitoring Officer and be effective when receipt of the notification was acknowledged by the Monitoring Officer in writing.

24 **APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

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

Members considered the report which invited them to appoint Paul Woods as the Chief Finance Officer of the North East Combined Authority on an interim basis.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) Paul Woods be appointed as the Chief Finance Officer for the North East Combined Authority on an interim basis until the Authority's long terms resource requirements, including staffing, have been established; and
- (ii) Thanks to be passed on to Sonia Tognarelli for her work for the Authority.

25 **APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT PERSON**

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

Members considered the report which provided information on the steps taken by the Monitoring Officer to identify an Independent Person for the North East Combined Authority in accordance with the delegation that had been given to her by the Leadership Board on 29 April 2014.

RESOLVED – That Stella Gardner be appointed as the Independent Person for the North East Combined Authority for a period of 12 months commencing from the date of her appointment and a fee of £1,000 be paid to her for undertaking that role for that period.

26 **THE NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (NE LEP) - ACCOUNTABLE BODY**

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

Members considered the report on the arrangements that had been put in place to support the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP). It was noted that NELEP was still considering the wording of the terms of the NELEP Host Authority and Accountable Body Agreement and, once finalised, it would be considered by the NELEP Board.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) The Leadership Board noted the arrangements in place to provide support to the North East Local Enterprise Partnership as set out in the report;
- (ii) The agreement in principle be given to the NELEP Host Authority and Accountable Body Agreement; and
- (iii) Delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Leadership Board, the Head of Paid Service and the Chief Finance Officer to finalise and enter into the NELEP Host Authority and Accountable Body Agreement on behalf of the North East Combined Authority.

27 **THE NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (NELEP) - FUNDING AGREEMENTS**

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

Members considered the report which sought their approval for the North East Combined Authority to enter into three project funding agreements on behalf of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) in its capacity as the accountable body for NELEP.

The ensuing discussion included a reference to similar Funding Agreements to arise requiring the agreement of the Leadership Board and the potential for dispensations to be sought through the Governance Committee to enable the representatives from the Constituent Authorities affected by such agreements to participate in the associated decision making.

RESOLVED – That the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Head of Paid Service and the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to finalise and enter into the Agreements for the three projects, as set out in the report, on behalf of the North East Combined Authority.

28 **QUARTER 1 2014/15 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

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

Members considered the report which presented a summary of expenditure against the Authority's 2014/15 budget for the first quarter of the year, incorporating the period 15 April 2014 (the date of establishment of the Combined Authority) to 30 June 2014.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

29 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

16 September 2014 at 2pm at South Tyneside Council.