

North East Combined Authority
Transport North East Committee

20 April 2015

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

Present:

Councillor: N Forbes (Chair)

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

45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ledger, Lott and Swithenbank.

46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

47 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2014

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 October 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

48 NOTES OF THE INQUORATE MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2014

The notes of the inquorate meeting held on 4 December 2014 were confirmed as a correct record.

49 NOTES OF THE INQUORATE MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2015

The notes of the inquorate meeting held on 25 February 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

(a) Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund

(Minute 38 refers)

It was noted that the Department for Transport (DfT) had provided feedback on the bids for the highway maintenance fund.

50 TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH

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

Members considered the report which provided information on the Transport for the North programme, including the opportunities it offered for securing improvements to transport networks within the North East Combined Authority (NECA) area and improving strategic links to the rest of Northern England.

Amongst the matters discussed were the following:

- the importance of inclusion of the wider Northern England in the proposals;
- the opportunities to discuss the proposals further, including in relation to any other potential proposals;
- the importance of speaking as one voice;
- the importance of securing new trains;
- the importance of dualling the A1 up to the Scottish border;
- the importance of investing in the infrastructure for the Northern ports; and
- the importance of further discussions to understand the proposals and develop effective governance around them.

Councillor P Watson commented on the importance of further development of proposals, effective information sharing and the need for an improved understanding of the proposals. It was confirmed that at this stage the proposals were work in progress and there would be opportunities for further discussions. A future policy seminar would provide an opportunity to look into the detail, including the ambitions and financial aspects.

RESOLVED – That the continued involvement of the North East Combined Authority in the Transport for the North partnership be endorsed in order to advance the case for the North East’s transport priorities.

51 TRANSPORT PLAN FOR THE NORTH EAST

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

Members considered the report which set out proposals for the development of a transport vision for the North East.

Amongst the matters discussed were the following:

- the importance of Members’ contribution to the development of a transport vision and a transport plan, including in order to ensure collective ownership of the final transport plan;
- the importance of consultation; and
- the importance of working across all Thematic areas to help the development of an approach and criteria for identifying priorities for investment.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. the report be noted; and
- ii. a progress report be submitted to a future meeting following further work to develop proposals in consultation with the Thematic areas.

52 **OFFICE FOR LOW EMISSION VEHICLES GO ULTRA LOW CITY SCHEME FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

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

Members considered the report which provided information on the Go Ultra Low City Scheme and associated Go Ultra schemes, including the expected timeframes and the approach that the Authority was taking when preparing bids. The report also sought Members' approval for the submission of a bid.

During the ensuing discussion it was confirmed that electric bikes could be considered for the inclusion in the proposals.

RESOLVED – That the Authority's proposals to submit a bid for the Go Ultra Low City Scheme funding be approved.

53 **RAIL UPDATE**

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

Members considered the report which provided information about the new announcements and other developments affecting the rail network within the North East Combined Authority area and also rail links from the region to other areas of the country.

Amongst the matters discussed were the following:

- the effect of the timescales in relation to the rail franchises, the importance of a timely development of the North East Business Unit proposals and the possibility of securing a ring-fenced budget for the Business Unit;
- the importance of understanding the mechanisms for enabling the delegation of management responsibilities within the Partnership Agreement, which would be developed in due course;
- concerns in relation to the potential reduction in rail services to Metro Centre; and
- the benefits of electrification in delivering greater economic growth, particularly in relation to tourism.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

54 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 9 July 2015 at 3.30pm or following the conclusion of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee; subject to confirmation at the Annual Meeting.