

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

20 April 2017

(2.00 - 3.25 pm)

Meeting held Committee Room, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF

**Present:**

Councillor: N Foster (Chair)

Councillors: J Harrison, A Hepple, M Brain, M Green, G Hobson, J McCarty,  
M Mordey, A Sambrook, E Tomlinson and A West

**89 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Forbes (Newcastle) and Cllr S Green (Gateshead)

**90 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**91 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2017**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 February 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising - Minute 79 (page 2) refers: 'Officers noted suggested amendments and the request that the amended report be recirculated to all members of TNEC'

It was agreed that the amended report be recirculated to members.

**92 NETWORK RAIL PRESENTATION**

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

At its last meeting the Committee invited Network Rail to a future meeting to discuss:

- The investment choices submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) for the next control period 2019 – 2024.

- The draft outcomes from the East Coast Route Study and the Strategy for the North of England Route Study.
- An update on projects within the North East.

During discussion members commented on Sunderland Station, an important priority for Sunderland City Council, which has partial funding but requires support from Network Rail. In terms of working priorities, the high costs of a small station such as Gilsland was questioned especially when compared to the costs for the Ashington, Blyth and Tyne line. Reference was made to increased future economic growth and the transport systems that will be required to support developments but which will be in competition with other lines such as HS2.

**RESOLVED** - that the contents of the presentation be noted.

### 93 **TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH UPDATE**

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

The report recapitulated the background to TfN, its activities and programme and the role of NECA within it. The Secretary of State for Transport had responded positively to the proposal to become a statutory Sub-National Transport Body.

**RESOLVED** – that the Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to receive a further report at its next meeting in relation to formal governance proposals of Transport for the North as a statutory Sub-National Transport Body.

### 94 **METRO FLEET SPECIFICATION UPDATE**

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

Members considered the report which provided a proposal for a high level specification for the new fleet of Metrocars for the Tyne and Wear Metro which takes account of customer feedback following Nexus' extensive market research.

A member queried whether the proposed seating layout would provide an adequate number of seats for passengers making longer journeys. Officers agreed to investigate this further, and to bring back further information before a final decision was taken.

**RESOLVED** – that further information be brought to a future meeting, at which point the recommendation would be considered again.

### 95 **TRANSPORT PLAN FOR THE NORTH EAST**

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 which provided an update to the report considered by Committee in February regarding the next steps for the Transport Plan.

Members were informed of progress since the last meeting:

- Individual meetings had taken place between the relevant officer and Lead Member from each Council to further discuss the Plan and receive comments.
- A workshop for relevant officers had taken place on 13 February.
- Comments arising from the meetings and the officer workshop were being analysed and incorporated into a further revised draft Plan wherever possible.

The latest draft Plan for adoption was to be presented to the Leadership Board at its meeting on 19 September 2017.

In discussion Members sought assurances that the aims of the air quality strategy to protect health and the environment were included in the Plan and enquired as to whether the draft Plan would be brought back to the Transport North East Committee.

**RESOLVED** – that the Committee noted the report and endorsed the next steps in development of the Plan.

## 96 **GO SMARTER UPDATE**

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

Members considered the report which outlined the delivery of NECA's Sustainable Travel Transition Year 2016 – 2017 and described the development of legacy proposals that will take forward and mainstream a number of these initiatives in the absence of Access Funding.

A presentation was also received detailing some of the projects undertaken to promote sustainable travel choices including the following:-

- School Active Travel
- Smarter Ways into Work
- Career Travel Projects
- Make the Switch

**RESOLVED** – that the report be noted and further report on the legacy proposals for the Go Smarter programme be brought back to the July committee meeting.

## 97 **DISCHARGE OF TRANSPORT FUNCTIONS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

Submitted: Report of the Vice Chair – Portfolio for Transport for Durham County Council (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Members considered the report the purpose of which was to advise the Committee of how Durham County Council had discharged the transport functions delegated to it by NECA for the 2016/17 year.

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

98 **DISCHARGE OF TRANSPORT FUNCTIONS BY NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

Submitted: Report of the Chief Executive, Northumberland County Council (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an update on the discharge of delegated functions at Northumberland County Council for the financial year 2016/17.

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

99 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016-17 UPDATE**

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

Consideration was given to the monitoring update on delivery of the 2016/17 Transport capital programme.

**RESOLVED** - that the contents of the report be noted.

100 **REVENUE BUDGET 2016-17 UPDATE**

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

P Woods briefly outlined the report which provided an update in relation to the 2016/17 revenue budget as at the end of February 2017.

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

101 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

13 July 2017 at 2.00pm