

North East Combined Authority
Transport North East Committee

26 February 2015

Meeting held: Gateshead Civic Centre, Regent Road, Gateshead, NE8 1HH

Notes of Inquorate Meeting

Present:

Councillor: Foster (Chair)

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

32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Forbes, S Green, Hobson and Ledger.

It was noted that the proposals for substitute members would be re-submitted to the North East Leadership Board in April 2015 for consideration.

33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

34 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2014

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 October 2014 were noted. The minutes would be re-submitted to the next ordinary meeting for approval.

35 NOTES OF INQUORATE MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2014

The notes of the inquorate meeting held on 4 December 2014 were noted. The notes would be re-submitted to the next ordinary meeting for confirmation.

36 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/15 - MONITORING REPORT

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

Members noted and discussed the report which provided an update on progress in relation to the delivery of the transport related capital programme for 2014/15. This is a summary of the matters discussed:

- The financial position and risk management in relation to the Metro Asset Renewal Programme, including over-programming to accommodate any

slippages, risk management during period 11, the improved recent position and the regular communication arrangements with the Department for Transport (DfT).

- The importance of Members receiving comprehensive information on the Metro ARP programme over a longer period of time.
- The background, partners, progress, including pilot schemes, technological issues and timescales in relation to the North East Smart Ticketing Initiative (NESTI).
- The importance of continuing to work to progress NESTI and the importance of working to include other rail providers in the scheme.
- The works to improve safety of the level crossings.

AGREED – That the report be noted.

37 **REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15 - MONITORING REPORT**

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

Members noted and discussed the report which provided an update on progress in relation to how the transport budgets for the delivery agencies for 2014/15 were being managed. It was noted that the travel and subsistence expenses set out in Appendix B included staff and members' travel expenses and also expenses incurred by the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) in the period before the establishment of the Combined Authority.

AGREED – That the report be noted.

38 **LOCAL HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE CHALLENGE FUND**

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

Members noted and discussed the report which set out information on the new approach for bidding for the highway maintenance fund from DfT and asked Members to note the content of the letter that had been submitted to DfT on behalf of the Combined Authority in support of the proposed bids. During the discussion, Members discussed the probability of obtaining funding for the bids and noted that feedback was expected on each of the bids.

AGREED – That the contents of the letter that had been submitted to the Department for Transport on 6 February 2015 on behalf of the North East Combined Authority in support of the bids for the highway maintenance fund be noted.

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

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

Members noted the report which provided details of the Go Ultra Low City Scheme, including expected timeframes and the approach that the North East Combined Authority proposed to follow in the submission of bids.

AGREED – That the report be re-submitted to the next ordinary meeting for approval.

40 **DISCHARGE OF DELEGATED TRANSPORT FUNCTIONS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL IN 2014**

Submitted: A report of the Vice-Chairman with Portfolio Responsibility for Transport for Durham County Council (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members noted and discussed the report which provided information on how Durham County Council had discharged transport functions in the period from April to December 2014, as delegated to it by the North East Combined Authority. The discussion included the approach taken by the council to support non-commercial routes and the types of fares on those routes.

AGREED – That the report be noted.

41 **DISCHARGE OF DELEGATED TRANSPORT FUNCTIONS BY NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL IN 2014**

Submitted: A report of the Lead Executive Director, Northumberland County Council (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members noted and discussed the report which provided an update on the discharge of the delegated functions in relation to transport at Northumberland County Council. The discussion included the proposed approach to provide a degree of alignment of services through a collaboration protocol under a quality contract scheme and the importance of examining opportunities for working towards a better harmonisation of fares across the region.

AGREED – That:

(i) the report be noted; and

(ii) the transport responsibilities of Northumberland County Council and the activities undertaken in 2014 be noted.

42 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

April 2015, date and time to be confirmed.