

## **North East Combined Authority**

### **Transport North East Committee**

28 April 2016

Meeting held: Civic Centre, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH

#### **Present:**

Councillor: N Forbes (Chair)

Councillors: N Foster, B Gallacher, M Green, S Green, J Harrison, A Hepple, G Hobson, J McCarty, J McElroy, M Speding, E Tomlinson and A West

#### **38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M Mordey.

#### **39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair, Councillor N Forbes, declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 due to his relative being a director of Weardale Community Transport.

#### **40 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 February 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **41 TRANSPORT MANIFESTO 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 provided an update on the consultation on the Transport Manifesto for the North East and set out a revised indicative timescale for the production of the full Transport Plan for the North East.

The ensuing discussion included the following matters:

- the revised timescale for the production of the full Transport Plan;
- the amount and nature of the responses received to the consultation;
- the complexity of the work to develop a joint transport plan for urban and rural areas;
- the importance of commitment to improve air quality;
- the importance that the Transport Plan captured the Authority's ambition with regard to both the economy and environment; and
- the broad nature of the Transport Manifesto and the importance of joining up the various themes at the next stages during the development the Transport Plan.

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

42 **DISCHARGE OF TRANSPORT FUNCTIONS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

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 considered the report which set out information on how Durham County Council had discharged the transport functions delegated to it by NECA in the calendar year 2015.

During the ensuing discussion, Members discussed the importance of joint working towards integration of transport, including smart ticketing, across the NECA area.

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

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

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

Members considered the report which set out information on the discharge of the transport functions by Northumberland County Council in the financial year 2015/16.

During the ensuing discussion, Members discussed the importance of joint working towards integration of transport, including smart ticketing, across the NECA area.

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

44 **NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION REPORT - HIGH SPEED 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 publication of the recent report from the National Infrastructure Commission – “High Speed North”.

In discussion, Members commented on the following matters:

- the importance of adequate investment in the North East;
- the importance that adequate consideration and priority was given to the North East when considering national connectivity;
- connectivity between the North East and Scotland;
- the importance that cross-country rail services were designed in a way that ensured trains stopped in cities and towns of the North East;
- the importance of having a voice on how East Coast Main Line was run;
- the role of the economic output in the design of routes;
- the opportunities presented by the proposed devolution deal;

- the importance of continuing to emphasise the strong links between transport and economic development;
- the current financial position of local authorities;
- working closer with other combined authorities; and
- the importance of continuing communication with the National Infrastructure Commission, including with regard to the importance of investment in the North East to enable a stronger and sustainable economy.

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

#### 45 **THE STRATEGIC ROAD NETWORK IN THE NECA AREA**

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 strategic road network in the NECA area, including current and future investment proposals.

The ensuing discussion was focused on the following matters:

- the need for closer relationships and joint working with Highways England;
- the importance of planning ahead for the right infrastructure for the region;
- the importance that strategic planning included links to Cumbria, Tyne Tees and Scotland;
- the high level of congestion on roads in the region and the need to request Highways England to invest in communication mechanisms to forewarn drivers about congestion on key routes; and
- the importance of continuing to emphasise the pivotal role of roads in the region for the local economy, for example for tourism.

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

#### 46 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT**

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

Members considered the report which provided a monitoring update on the delivery of the 2015/16 Transport capital programme.

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

#### 47 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

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

Members considered the report which provided a monitoring update on the 2015/16 Transport budget.

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

**48 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held in July 2016. The date and time would be confirmed at the Annual Meeting.