

North East Combined Authority, Transport North East Committee

29 May 2014

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

Present:

Councillor: Forbes (Chair)

Councillors: Allen, Blackburn, Foreman, Foster, M Green, S Green, Hobson, Lott, McCarty and McElroy.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

The Chair requested that future meetings should be arranged in a way that would ensure that they did not clash with meetings of the Cabinets or full Councils of the constituent Local Authorities.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

On request from the Chair, V Geary outlined the procedure for the registration of Members' interests by Members in the Public Register.

It was also noted that if Members had registered their interests in the Public Register they were not obliged to declare these interests at every meeting of the Committee unless there was a specific item on the agenda that required Members to declare their interests at the meeting.

Councillors Blackburn, M Green, S Green, Hobson, Lott and McElroy declared a personal interest due to holding a concessionary travel pass.

Councillors Hobson and M Green declared a personal interest due to holding the Metro Gold Card and a senior rail card.

Councillor Blackburn and Hobson declared a personal interest due to holding a concessionary pass for the Tyne Tunnels.

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

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

The Chair introduced the report which invited the Committee to appoint its third Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2014/15 from the Tyne and Wear Authorities, and explained the rationale behind the appointment of three Vice-Chairs.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) The appointment of the third Vice-Chair of the Committee be deferred until the next meeting; and
- (ii) Councillor J McCarty be appointed as Chair of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee on an interim basis in order to chair today's meeting of the Sub-Committee.

4 **TRANSPORT POLICY UPDATE**

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

Members considered the report which described the elements of the role of the Committee in delivering transport functions through the Combined Authority.

Members welcomed the report and the vision for integrated transport. Members commented on the importance of true integration, connectivity and effectiveness, including cost effectiveness and the ease of use, of public transport and other modes of travel in order to improve access, including local access, support economic growth and address environmental issues. Members also commented on the importance of improvements to roads, the importance of learning from each other, including in relation to both urban and rural issues, and the importance of fast delivery of the vision. Members also commented on the size of the task in front of them and on the importance of a realistic, achievable and ambitious plan which would be suitable for future generations.

Comments were also made about the importance of working to consider opportunities for funding and support from the Government, influencing national policies and learning from the best practices from around the world. Members were invited to contact the Chair with any further additions to the overall agenda.

RESOLVED – That the Committee:

- (i) noted the opportunities provided by the new Combined Authority, and considered the transport issues that were arising;
- (ii) noted the opportunities for further integration of transport services within the Combined Authority area, including for the delivery of bus services; and
- (iii) noted the opportunity for enhancing the region's influence on national decisions affecting the connectivity of the North East, including the East Coast Main Line and HS2.

5 BUDGET 2014/15 - UPDATE REPORT

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

Members considered the report which provided the transport-related budgets for the delivery agencies for 2014/15 and set out the proposed monitoring arrangements.

In addition to the information set out in the report, Members noted the importance of the development of a medium term financial strategy to support the vision for transport.

It was also noted that a large part of the Combined Authority's reserves would be earmarked for specific transport functions. Explanation was provided at the meeting as to why the level of reserves for the Combined Authority did not need to be set high.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the budget for 2014/15 be noted;
- (ii) quarterly monitoring reports be provided to the Committee during the course of the year;
- (iii) information be provided for a future meeting on the income of Metro;
- (iv) Members would contact P Woods to request financial briefing; and
- (v) A note be circulated to Members on the position with regard to the reserves of the Combined Authority.

6 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at 2pm on 29 July 2014 at the Newcastle Civic Centre.

It was noted that venues of future meetings would rotate between the town halls of the Constituent Authorities.