

North East Combined Authority

Transport North East Committee

9 July 2015

Meeting held: Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7SN

Present:

Councillor Forbes (Chair)

Councillors: Foster, M Green, S Green, Harrison, Hepple, Hobson, McElroy, Mordey Speding, Tomlinson and West

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Gallacher and J McCarty.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 April 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF TRANSPORT NORTH EAST COMMITTEE, CHAIR OF TRANSPORT NORTH EAST (TYNE AND WEAR) SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – That Councillor J Harrison be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Transport North East Committee from the Tyne and Wear constituent authorities and Chair of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2015/16.

5 TRANSPORT VISION 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 background to the draft long-term Transport Vision for the North East. The report was assisted by a presentation which was delivered at the meeting by the Managing Director (Transport Operations) and the Head of Transport Policy for the North East Combined Authority (NECA).

In welcoming the report, the Chair highlighted the fact that the vision would help to develop the first coherent transport plan for the region. During the ensuing discussion Members discussed the following matters:

- The importance of a joint effort by the constituent authorities to align local policies to fit well with regional aspirations; for example, planning policies;
- The opportunity to develop a joint approach to licensing and regulatory rules across the region in relation to taxis; and a standard approach to bus lanes and no-car lanes;
- The importance of inclusion of all stakeholders in the development of the transport vision and the transport plan, including those responsible for transport, members of the local authorities, strategic partners and the public;
- The timescales and the amount of work involved in developing a transport vision and the importance of a positive, forward-thinking approach;
- The importance of focusing on the improvement of local transport first, including infrastructure, connectivity, affordability and customer service;
- The importance of a strategic approach to transport links, including in relation to roads, rail, freight, parking, walking routes and cycling routes;
- The importance of a strategic approach to the location of Park and Ride facilities, based on customers' needs;
- The importance of being mindful of the diverse nature and needs of the region, and the importance of consultation with the public in different parts of the region;
- Generally, the importance of asking the public what they needed in terms of transport and listening to their views, avoiding technical consultations;
- The differences between the terms "vision" and "manifesto" and a suggestion for a brief, clearly expressed vision and a separate manifesto;
- The role of transport infrastructure and connectivity in the context of the impact on economy, including areas such as trade and investment;
- The importance of good connectivity with the North, specifically Scotland, as well as the South;
- The role of High Speed Rail 2 for the region, including in securing opportunities for economic growth.

RESOLVED – That the Transport Vision for the North East be discussed further at a policy seminar, possibly in September, prior to its submission to the next meeting.

6 **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 an update on the Transport for the North programme.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7 **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 an update on the new announcements and other developments affecting the rail network within the North East Combined Authority area and links from the region to other areas of the country.

During the ensuing discussion Members discussed the nature of the proposed Business Unit and the opportunities presented as part of the Northern and TransPennine Express franchises.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8 **QUALITY CONTRACTS SCHEME UPDATE**

Submitted: A report of the Managing Director (Transport Operations) (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an update on progress in delivering the Tyne and Wear Quality Contracts Scheme. During the ensuing discussion, a Member expressed concern about the ongoing lack of control over bus operations.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9 **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 an update on progress with the proposed bid for funding from the Go Ultra Low City Scheme and associated Go Ultra schemes.

RESOLVED – That the approach that was being taken in developing a bid for the Go Ultra Low City Scheme funding be approved.

10 **APPROVAL OF MAJOR LOCAL GROWTH FUND TRANSPORT SCHEMES**

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

Members considered the report which sought approval for the release of funding for the Central Station Metro refurbishment, one of the major transport schemes that formed part of the Local Growth Deal and had been previously prioritised by the former Local Transport Body.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. the release of funding of £2.51m from the Local Growth Fund to Nexus for the scheme set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report be approved; and
- II. the Monitoring Officer be authorised to complete the Grant Funding Agreement with Nexus.

11 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/15 OUTTURN AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16 UPDATE**

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

Members considered the report which provided an update on the outturn in relation to the 2014/15 capital programme and the first monitoring update on the 2015/16 programme.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

12 **REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15 OUTTURN AND REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16 UPDATE**

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

Members considered the report which provided an update on the outturn in relation to the 2014/15 revenue budget and the first monitoring update on the 2015/16 budget.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

13 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

24 November 2015, following the conclusion of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee.

A policy seminar for Members would be held prior to the next meeting.