

North East Combined Authority

Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee

9 October 2014

Meeting held North Tyneside Council, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, NE27 0BY

Present:

Councillor: Lott (Chair)

Councillors: McCarty, McElroy, Watson and West

14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 July 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

(At this point Councillor McCarty joined the meeting.)

17 IMPROVING LOCAL BUS SERVICES

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

Members considered the report which provided an update on the progress of the Bus Strategy Delivery Project (BSDP), ahead of a report being presented to the Leadership Board on 21 October 2014 for decision.

Amongst the matters discussed during the ensuing discussion were the following:

- wellbeing within the context of the public interest test;
- engagement with local public within the context of the options for the delivery of the Bus Strategy;
- the permanency of the current legislation;
- the proposed transition process for the delivery of BSDP; and
- thanks to all who had been involved in the work on BSDP.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. the proposals for a Quality Contracts Scheme (QCS) for Tyne and Wear and a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) be noted;
- II. the proposal that if the Leadership Board would agree to proceed with a QCS then NECA shall adopt a Cross Boundary Collaboration Protocol to manage the effects of the QCS on bus services in Durham and Northumberland be noted; and
- III. both the QCS and VPA proposals be sufficiently developed to be considered by the Leadership Board.

18 **THE ROLE OF TRANSPORT NORTH EAST SUB-COMMITTEE AND DELIVERY OF FUNCTIONS**

Submitted: A report of the Director General, Nexus (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided clarification on the various roles of the Sub-Committee in taking forward the Combined Authority transport agenda, including how the Sub-Committee would oversee its delivery through scrutiny of Nexus' three year plan.

The ensuing discussion included matters such as:

- the importance of commencing the delivery of the transport agenda;
- the importance of structured scrutiny of Nexus' performance and the need for clarity around this process;
- the provision of retrospective information to the Sub-Committee on the delegated decision made by Nexus in respect of land disposals; and
- the monitoring of Nexus on delivery, which was reserved for the Sub-Committee, and the monitoring of Nexus on budget, which was reserved for the Transport North East Committee.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. the three core functions for which the Sub-Committee was responsible be noted;
- II. the strategic functions delegated to the Sub-Committee from the North East Leadership Board (NELB) be noted;
- III. the proposed method of delivery through the Nexus three year plan be endorsed; and
- IV. delegated authority be given to Nexus to dispose of any land with a value of less than £0.25million pursuant to section 10(1)(xxiii) of the Transport Act 1968

19 **TYNE AND WEAR LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND (LSTF) PROGRAMME - GO SMARTER**

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

Members considered the report which provided an update on the progress made towards the delivery of the Tyne and Wear 'Schools Go Smarter' and 'Go Smarter to Work' programmes, which were being delivered as part of the Department for Transport's (DfT) Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) programme.

The ensuing discussion included matters such as the commendation of the team for their work, the amount of work still required, the importance of continuing to work in partnership with the health team for additional investment and joint effort, including on continuing to tackle obesity, the importance of continuing to work to increase the use of sustainable transport, breaking stigma around age and cycling, preparation of a large cycling campaign for spring 2015 and the importance of publicising these activities.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. the report be noted; and
- II. update reports on the delivery of the programmes be brought to future meetings.

20 **MONITORING NEXUS' PERFORMANCE**

Submitted: A report of the Director General, Nexus (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided information on Nexus' corporate performance in respect of service and project delivery.

The ensuing discussion included matters such as:

- the commendation of the works to Hebburn Metro station;
- the importance of understanding the governance of Nexus within the context of the Combined Authority;
- the importance of monitoring projects that were under control of Nexus; and
- key performance indicators, specifically the position and reasons in relation to the Staff Accident Frequency Rate for Nexus Rail and Cancellations of Journeys, and also Nexus' safety monitoring process.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

21 **DECISION MAKING SUPPORT PROCESSES**

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

Members considered the report which considered options to enable the provision of appropriate and timely information to Members of the Sub-Committee, specifically

through the use of working group/or briefing arrangements to support the decision-making of the Sub-Committee.

The ensuing discussion included matters such as the commendation of the report and a suggestion that Metro 2030 should be added to the topics of the proposed workshops.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. the report be noted;
- II. an informal process be established which would provide for member briefing and discussion without the need to set up formal working groups; and
- III. the North East Leadership Board be recommended that, when the Constitution of the Combined Authority was reviewed, a provision be included in the Constitution that would enable the Sub-Committee to establish working groups as and when required without the need to amend the Constitution.

22 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 13 November 2014 at 2pm at Sunderland Civic Centre.

23 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That by virtue of section 100A and paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting during the consideration of agenda item 11 - Nexus Board - Temporary Extension of Contract and agenda item 12 - Tyne Tunnels because exempt information was likely to be disclosed and the public interest test was satisfied.