

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 18 July 2019 at 10.00am

Meeting to be held at: Committee Room, Civic Centre, Burdon Road,
Sunderland, SR2 7DN

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AGENDA

Page No

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Please remember to declare any personal interest where appropriate both verbally and by recording it on the relevant form (to be handed to the Democratic Services Officer). Please also remember to leave the meeting where any personal interest requires this.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2019 **1-5**

4. Thematic Lead Update Report **6-26**

5. NECA Forward Plan and Scrutiny Work Programme **27-45**

6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

19 September 2019 – Gateshead Civic Centre

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DRAFT MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

14th March 2019

(10.00am – 11.35 am)

Meeting held in Committee Room 1 at the Civic Centre, Sunderland SR2 7DN

Present:

Independent Members: D Taylor-Goody (Chair) S Hart (Vice Chair)

Councillors: R Crute, J Eagle, W Flynn, G Kilgour, R Oliver, D Snowdon, and J Wallace.

31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Patterson (Durham).

32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Eagle declared an interest as an employee of Nexus and informed the Committee that dispensation had been granted for him to take part in discussion of transport related items but he would not be voting in decision making.

33 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 15 MARCH 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March, 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

34 NOTES OF AN INQUORATE MEETING HELD 16 JULY 2018

The notes of the inquorate meeting held on 16 July, 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

35 NOTES OF AN INQUORATE MEETING HELD 20 SEPTEMBER 2018

The notes of the inquorate meeting held on 20 September, 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

36 NOTES OF AN INQUORATE MEETING HELD 20 DECEMBER 2018

The notes of the inquorate meeting held on 20 December, 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

37 REVIEW OF DECISION-MAKING FOLLOWING GOVERNANCE CHANGES

Submitted: Report of the Monitoring Officer and Policy and Scrutiny Officer (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Peter Judge, Monitoring Officer, introduced the report which reviewed the decision making process following changes in governance and provided the opportunity for the Committee to discuss improvements to the process, following which Lizzie Lunn, Policy and Scrutiny Officer, briefed members on the timeline of activities around the revised arrangements including potential dates for the Members workshop on NECA Leadership, governance and transport, as detailed in paragraph 1.5 of the report.

In response to comments, questions and points raised by Members the following was noted:

- With regard to the Members workshop it was suggested that the optimum time to hold it would be in late May / early June. By this time most Councils would have held their annual meetings and there would be a window of opportunity before the first cycle of local authority meetings for the new municipal year commenced.
- It was important that NECA's Scrutiny function was sufficiently robust given the economic uncertainty created by Brexit particularly in relation to funding streams such as the Stronger Towns Fund and the Structural Fund replacement.

At this juncture and with the permission of the Chair, Helen Golightly, Chief Executive of North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), provided an update on the status of its Accountable Body. Members were informed that the LEP was a public, private, and education sector partnership that covered the same geographical area as the North East Combined Authority (NECA) and the North of Tyne Combined Authority. It worked with its partners to produce and deliver the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), which was the principal strategic economic policy document for the North East.

Being a Partnership it required a body corporate to act as an Accountable Body on its behalf. The role of the Accountable Body was not to take decisions but to check and provide assurance that due process and public probity was being delivered. In its initial two years this role was undertaken for the LEP by Sunderland City Council before transferring to NECA. Following the changes to the NECA boundaries and the establishment of the North of Tyne Combined Authority, discussion was ongoing among the Leaders of the seven constituent local councils as to whether Accountable Body status for the LEP should remain with NECA or transfer to the North of Tyne Combined Authority. Ultimately this would be a decision for the LEP Board and a paper on the matter would be taken to the Board in due course.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. It be noted that a review of the Decision Making Protocol had been undertaken following the changes in governance;

- ii. the Decision Making Protocol in its current form, following the review, be endorsed and it be noted that as developments were implemented to improve decision making and scrutiny, the Protocol would continue to be reviewed as part of this process.
- iii. the opportunity to introduce developments in the decision making process and to develop the role of scrutiny further be noted;
- iv. the proposed developments to NECA's decision making process be noted and;
- v. approval be given to the Overview and Scrutiny Report Template.

38 STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN YEARLY UPDATE

Submitted: Report of the Chief Executive of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Helen Golightly, Chief Executive of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership presented the report which briefed the Committee on the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) following its recent update to reflect changing economic and policy circumstances and to bring forward updated programmes of delivery for the period 2019-2021.

In response to comments, questions and points raised by Members the following was noted:

- In response to a member concern as to whether the performance indicators detailed in para 1.3 were too ambitious, Ms Golightly advised that it was felt that the first 2 indicators, which were set locally, were right for the region. The remaining 4 were imposed nationally and were used to measure LEPs against each other. The purpose of the SEP was to close the gap between the North East and other regions.
- Members' concerns regarding the likely detrimental effect of Brexit on the economy of the region and the need to prepare accordingly.
- The use of the term 'better jobs' as an aspiration in the Plan. Was it appropriate? should 'better paid jobs' be used instead?
- The need for the Committee to scrutinise the ongoing development of the SEP and the Local Industrial Strategy particularly in respect of risk and assurance

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

39 FORWARD PLAN AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Submitted: Report of Monitoring Officer and Policy and Scrutiny Officer (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Peter Judge, Monitoring Officer and Lizzie Lunn, Policy and Scrutiny Officer presented the report which provided Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Forward Plan for the current 28 day period and discuss items for the Work Programme for the remainder of 2018/2019 and into 2019 /2020

In response to comments, questions and points raised by Members, the following was noted:

- Consideration be given to the inclusion of the following member requests for additions to the work programme:-
 - i) the Tyne Pedestrian Tunnel,
 - ii) scrutiny of the developing SEP and associated Local Industrial Strategy, in particular regarding issues of risk and assurance,
 - iii) any additional matters that may arise from the Members' workshop.
- Sufficient flexibility should be built into the work programme to cater for ad hoc emerging issues.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The Forward Plan and Work Programme 2018/2019 be noted, and.
- ii. Consideration be given to the inclusion of the member requests for additions to the work programme as detailed above.

40 **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed at the Annual Meeting

41 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of agenda item 9 (Confidential minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 March 2018 Confidential notes of the inquorate meeting held 20 September 2018) because exempt information was likely to be disclosed and the public interest test against the disclosure was satisfied.

42 **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 MARCH 2018**

The Committee reviewed the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2018 and those present agreed their accuracy.

RESOLVED – That the confidential minutes be approved and signed by the Chair.

43 **CONFIDENTIAL NOTES OF AN INQUORATE MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2018**

The Committee reviewed the confidential notes of the inquorate meeting held on 20 September 2018 and those present agreed their accuracy.

RESOLVED – That the confidential notes be approved and signed by the Chair.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Agenda Item 4

Date: 18th July 2019

Subject: Thematic Lead Up-date Report

Report of: Acting Corporate Director for Economic Regeneration, South
Tyneside Council and Chair of NECA Economic Directors' Group

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Members of NECA Overview and Scrutiny on the NECA Leadership Board Thematic Portfolios.

Recommendations

The NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note and comment on the contents of the report.

1. Background

- 1.1 The North East Combined Authority (NECA) was originally established by the Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyne and Sunderland Combined Authority Order 2014 (as amended) and came into existence on 15 April 2014 as the Combined Authority for the 7 Local Authority areas.
- 1.2 The boundaries of NECA were changed on the 2 November 2018 by the Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2018 to cover only the Local Authorities of Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland. These are now the Constituent Councils of NECA.
- 1.3 Since Overview and Scrutiny Committee last met and on 4 June 2019, the NECA Leadership Board approved the recommendations to a continuation of the thematic lead portfolios as well as their current Chairs and Vice Chairs for the 2019/20 municipal year.
- 1.4 Thematic Lead Areas are: (i) Chairs Thematic Portfolio, (ii) Economic Development and Digital, (iii) Finance and Skills & Employability and (iv) Transport. The Leadership Board also agreed to note the need to appoint a Thematic Lead for the municipal year 2019/20 for the Culture and Tourism Thematic Lead Area.

2. Thematic Lead Portfolio Update

2.1 Chair's Thematic Portfolio Up-date

The NECA Chair will lead the development of strategic relationships with key partner organisations regionally, nationally and internationally. The Chair's first report to the NECA Leadership Board set out a number of those key relationships.

- 2.2 Further engagement will be informed by a stakeholder engagement exercise which will be closely aligned to the agreed themes of NECA as well as its overarching aims and objectives. It will identify those organisations, groups and individuals, who will make an important contribution towards the successful delivery of NECA's emerging programme of activity and will ensure that a meaningful and sustainable relationship is developed. This will ensure, amongst other matters that NECA is well placed to take full advantage of funding and investment opportunities as they arise and can consistently make a strong contribution to the development of regional, national and international

policy.

2.3 A central component of this Strategy will be how NECA engages effectively with the private sector including business representative organisations.

2.4 The relationship with between the North of Tyne Combined Authority and the North East Combined Authority is an important one: the Authorities will continue to work together to deliver transport across the North East and there is a strong commitment to the delivery of the Strategic Economic Plan and furthering the economic prospects of our communities. The Chair of NECA will meet the North of Tyne Mayor regularly to ensure continued effective working on these, and other, important programmes.

Trade and Investment

2.5 To further the economic prospects of the area, securing investment into the north east, creating jobs and growth, and export support to our businesses is critical. The North East Combined Authority area is key within the Northern Powerhouse. To ensure the agenda and priorities of the North East is reflected in the activities and programmes of the Northern Powerhouse the Chair will regularly meet senior representatives.

2.6 The Invest North East England (INEE) team continue to develop a strong pipeline of potential investment into the NECA area. In 2018/19 there have been 52 inward investment project successes resulting in 1,713 jobs in the NECA area.

2.7 Significant projects include VBites in Peterlee creating 300 jobs, investment from Parker Bioscience Filtration in Gateshead, BGL Group creating 40 new positions in a new 'Tech Hub' in Sunderland, and Trotec Laker UK moving to new Head Quarter premises in South Tyneside.

2.8 Developing a Cultural and Visitor Economy Theme

The Leadership Board agreed that an additional theme related to the Cultural and Visitor economy would be developed. It was agreed that this theme would

best taken forward initially on a pan-regional basis working alongside the North of Tyne and Tees Valley Combined Authorities.

3. Economic Development & Digital Thematic Portfolio Up-date

3.1 The thematic portfolio broadly continues an established portfolio area, however in June 2019, following a request from the thematic Advisory Board the NECA Leadership Board agreed to a change the name of the Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board to Economic Development and Digital Advisory Board.

3.2 This will enable the role and work of the Advisory Board to be fully aligned with the Economic Development and Digital theme (formerly the Economic Development and Regeneration theme).

3.3 Led by the thematic lead and Advisory Board chair, Cllr Miller, a review of the Advisory Board terms of reference is underway so that again, subject to Leadership Board approval, the role and remit of the Advisory Board is aligned with the revised NECA theme.

3.4 Invest North East England (INEE)

The thematic portfolio includes the activities of the Invest North East England service, the European Structural and Investment Funds, as well as up-dates on key economic growth and development projects in the NECA area and key economic data releases.

3.5 The table below provides a summary of the investments into the NECA area in 2018/19.

Combined Authority	FDI Projects	FDI Jobs	UK Projects	UK Jobs
NECA	35	928	17	785
NoTCA	23	913	9	170
Total INEE area	58	1841	26	955

FDI = Foreign Direct Investment

Key marketing and communications activities during 2018/19 include:

- 3.6**
- The launch of the Energy Gateway North East England in July 2018. This micro-website is focused on the offshore energy sector showcasing the ports, the sites, R+D assets, skills and training, market opportunities and supply chains
 - Production of six showcase videos to promote the region. There is one generic North East England video plus five sector focussed videos (Energy, FPBS, Digital, Advanced Manufacturing and Life Sciences)
 - Production of four video case studies (digital / FPBS) from North East companies to further promote the key sectors
 - Continued growth of INEE’s presence across social platforms in terms of followers and impressions
 - Continued production of a bi-monthly newsletter for subscribers covering news and events from North East England
 - Continued production / refresh of marketing collateral to support the promotion of the region. To date, the team has produced a showcase brochure, sector specific inserts as well as exhibition collateral
 - Continued meetings with local authority partners and the NELEP to ensure all future marketing campaigns and events are dovetailed and aligned.

The INEE team have attended a number of events in 2018/19 representing the region. Key events include:

- 3.7**
- MIPIM UK – London (October 2018), in partnership with the private sector
 - Offshore Wind North East –North East (November 2018), hosted a VIP delegation showing them around key North East Offshore Assets
 - MIPIM Cannes – Cannes (March 2019) - with Invest Newcastle delegation
 - Shared Services Leaders’ Summit – London (March 2019)
 - XRTGO Conference – Gateshead (April 2019), hosted an Irish delegation of potential investors
 - INEE also hosted a Canadian Tech delegation in November 2018 which generated a number of potential enquiries

- 3.8**
- Lead Generation Contract:** INEE is in the final phase of a lead generation contract with OCO Global. This has been focused in the main on digital and professional services companies in London and the South East. However, the contract has also identified various manufacturing projects as well as projects from India, Ireland, USA and Italy.

To date, the contract has led to projects totalling over 1,000 potential jobs being put on INEE's pipeline and has led to a number of visits to the region, including two small investment successes.

INEE is currently re-tendering for a new contract to start in July 2019.

Working with the Department of International Trade (DIT)

3.9

3.9.1

High Potential Opportunities (HPO) - INEE has been successful in its bid for the development of a High Potential Opportunity (HPO). A HPO is a mechanism to ensure that significant market opportunities which will be attractive to overseas investors are publicised widely to relevant markets overseas. The NE HPO is based on the growing strength of the North East's immersive tech sector, and the links with the advanced manufacturing sector in the region.

3.9.2

DIT National Sector Team briefings - In December 2018 and January 2019, INEE briefed the national DIT teams responsible for Life Sciences and Energy & Infrastructure. These briefings are one way in which INEE and other partners ensure the DIT national teams have an up to date understanding of the key North East capabilities and opportunities in key sectors.

3.9.3

Northern Powerhouse Key Account Management Programme - After two successful years aimed at broadening the delivery of the Strategic Account Management of foreign owned firms in the North East, DIT Northern Powerhouse is negotiating with INEE to enter into a further year contract to enable local authority partners to deliver additional account management resource, adding value to the existing arrangements delivered by DIT. The 2018/19 programme was very successful, with delivery exceeding contracted outputs.

3.10

Strength in Places Fund

Led by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), Strength in Places Fund (SIPF) is a new competitive funding scheme that takes a place-based approach to research and innovation funding, to support local economic growth. The fund aims to support innovation-led regional growth by identifying and supporting areas of R&D strengths that drive clusters of businesses that have potential to innovate, or to adopt new technologies, so that these clusters can become nationally and internationally competitive. Projects will bring together local collaborations building on the underpinning regional economic impact role of universities and other R&D facilities and engaging those businesses at the forefront of delivering economic growth through innovation within the identified economic geography.

Twenty-three bids nationally have been invited to develop full stage bids to be submitted in September 2019; three of these bids are in the NECA area: NE-CHAIN, CESAM and UK Hydrogen Corridor.

Centre for Sustainable Advanced Manufacturing (CESAM)

3.10.1

Advanced Manufacturing growth is one of four areas of strategic importance within North East England's Strategic Economic Plan and at the heart of Sunderland City and South Tyneside Economic Master Plans. The Centre for Sustainable Advanced Manufacturing (CeSAM) is a transformational regional investment that forms a critical component of North East England's plans to create 'more and better jobs' through growth in smart and sustainable advanced manufacturing.

CESAM's immediate priority is enhancing the productivity, competitiveness and growth of the region's £11bn automotive sector, which is of crucial importance to the North East's economic future.

North East Cluster for Healthy Ageing and Independent Living (NE-CHAIN) Bid

3.10.2

Led by Newcastle University, and building on their considerable research expertise in aging, a consortium will comprise Universities, NHS, the NE Combined Authorities, public and private care providers, educators, local, national and international businesses, and civil groups. It will be the focal point for accelerated growth working within well-established partnerships to create a model cross-cutting cluster consortium of organisations committed to working to the collaborative advantage of its core community; of the health economy; and of the growth agenda of the region.

The focus of the project's research and innovation activity is Ageing, specifically Healthy Ageing and Independent Living. The opportunity to develop, evaluate and deploy new products, services and facilities for this market is very significant and growing. The project will support the growing cluster and supply chain by developing new infrastructure for business development, knowledge exchange, investment and market access.

UK Hydrogen Corridor

3.10.3

Organisations within the NECA area including Durham University are also playing a role in this project focused around the "Hydrogen Corridor" which is uniquely placed to develop and prototype hydrogen based technologies. The Tees Valley and Leeds City regions aim to play a significant role in the transition to a hydrogen based economy, with the Tees Valley focus being on the production,

industrial use and storage of hydrogen, and the Leeds City Region focused on the proposed transition of domestic gas to hydrogen and the associated manufacturing sector to deliver equipment and machinery to support the sector.

Labour Market Statistics

3.11

ONS released the latest labour market statistics on 14 May. It was disappointing that the statistics show that employment has fallen across the North East region, including Tees Valley.

Employment has declined by 5,000 over the last quarter and 26,000 over the year. Further, whilst unemployment has remained stable over the last quarter, it has increased by 7,000 over the last year. Figures for those who are outside the labour market, for example, due to studying, caring responsibilities or ill health, have also risen.

The statistics identify that the number of men in employment has increased slightly over both the quarter and year, so the decline is in the number of women in work. 23,000 women have left the labour market in the North East over the last 12 months.

The NE LEP has issued a statement to say it's important that work is done to understand these trends and it will work with partners to deliver the Strategic Economic Plan including creating 100,000 more jobs by 2024. It will also be ensured that residents are supported to access the employment opportunities created.

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

3.12

Leadership Board receive regular updates on the funds allocated in the current ESIF programmes and the amounts remaining in the European Regeneration & Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF).

On 8 May, the Government issued an ESF Skills for Growth project call in the North East LEP area. Approximately £27.16m of ESF is available under:

- Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning - £17m for More Developed area, £3m for Transition (Durham). Preference for projects over £5m ESF.
- Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems - £6m More Developed area, £1.16m Transition. Projects cannot be below £1.791m ESF.

All ESF projects must be completed by December 2023.

Finance, Skills and Employability Thematic Portfolio Up-date

4. Finance Theme

4.1 Wider discussions continue to take place in relation to the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). In the lead up to the CSR, NECA will consider its own submission to Government on issues such as the fair funding review, and the funding available for local government services from 2020/21.

Skills Theme

Key issues and priorities being developed with this theme include:

4.2 **Adult Education Budget (AEB) devolution.** This seems to be a consistent feature of devolution deals as the Education and Skills Funding Agency progress with plans to devolve the remaining 50% of the national budget which itself is reducing year on year. Anticipating a difficult process with uncertain local benefits, devolution also presents significant challenges for the larger colleges across the NECA footprint particularly New College Durham, Sunderland College and Gateshead College whose delivery crosses multiple Combined Authority areas, each with differing timescales, processes or potential for the devolved commissioning of AEB over the next two years.

4.2.1

4.2.2 **Skills Support in the Workplace** – a key element in opening up entry level jobs and addressing the need for general productivity increases is the investment in (intermediate) skills within the workforce. Currently only delivered through the ESF programme the general resources have been insufficient to date to meet business & employee demand while more targeted programmes seeking to improve digital skills in the workplace and health and social care skills haven't generated significant employer buy in. This is an area requiring some assessment / evaluation to potentially feed into proposals under the Shared Prosperity Fund

4.2.3 **Apprenticeship Growth Partnership** – Many members remain concerned about the availability, take up and completion of apprenticeships across the combined authority area. At a NELEP level an Apprenticeship Growth Partnership met for some time but its activity is now subsumed within the broader focus of the Growth Hub programme.

It is widely reported that nationally apprenticeship starts are approximately 30% down on what they were prior to the introduction of the apprenticeship levy. With many of the current apprentices being existing employees particularly of larger levy paying companies, apprenticeships are not currently providing the entry level / career starting point they previously did, meaning a loss of social mobility. The

LGA continue to lobby for additional flexibilities around the use of apprenticeship levy with individual authorities contributing to a range of LGA activities and pilot projects to help drive up apprenticeship starts and the development of appropriate apprenticeship standards.

4.2.4 Skills Consultations - Previous NECA leadership updates included details of significant linked consultations. At present there is a live consultation relating to a 'Review of post 16 quals below Level3' which focusses on issues of quality, learner progression and the implementation of Technical 'T Level' qualifications. These are important issues for the North East labour force and aspirations to improve productivity through upskilling. This consultation closes on 10 June 2019 and the views of constituent authorities have been sought.

A further recent consultation relating to 'Improving adult basic digital skills' recently concluded and the government response to the consultation and future direction is awaited.

4.2.5 Skills Advisory Partnership (SAP) - Skills Advisory Panels are a government proposal to create local partnerships aiming to strengthen the link between public and private sector employers, local authorities, colleges and universities. At present the NELEP's Employment & Skills Board is identified as the host partnership to link with the SAP which should develop its own reference group including formal representation from both North of Tyne CA & NECA. The SAP would be an important resource to support a commissioning plan if AEB was devolved in the future.

4.2.6 Work Discovery Weeks – All authorities have differing forms of Business / School engagement. Sunderland and South Tyneside have extensive programmes of business engagement as part of annual careers programmes. Both are currently looking to refresh their offer and recognise the existing levels of cross boundary working including Durham businesses and schools which have participated in sessions previously.

Employment Theme

4.3 Work & Health Programme (WHP) - Delivery of the WHP continues to be problematic across the NECA area with provider concerns over inappropriate referrals made by JCP and limited labour market opportunities for clients with little or no recent work history. As a payment by results contract this is causing pressure for delivery partners and has been flagged with LGA, NELEP, DWP and the prime contractor Reed in Partnership.

4.3.1

4.3.2 ESF – A future set of calls for 'access to the labour market' is set to be issued by early June, seeking to allocate remaining ESF monies. Consideration of match

funding, priority investment and strategic fit will be required to feed into the ESIF committee process. ESF remains the largest / most flexible route to support large scale employment programmes and lessons learnt need to be worked up to feed into future funding programmes.

Cross-cutting initiatives / opportunities

4.3.3 Mental Health Trailblazer (MHT) – following an initial project financed by NECA and ESF, a proposal has been tabled to continue to provide Mental Health service embedded employment support utilising some of the remaining ESF monies. All council areas seem to have seen benefits in terms of the MHT service, however moving forward it is felt the Clinical Commissioning Groups who currently deliver the host programme should be identifying the match funding from the significant resources invested across the North of Tyne / NECA footprint.

4.3.4 Access to work – a significant feature of much of employment support is client's ability to access work - overcoming time complexity or cost. Across NECA there are some examples of good practice such as wheels to work project but further opportunities required to support this agenda. Manchester CA have a broader 'wheels to work' programme co-sponsored by Public Health also providing cycles / Training / PPE to unemployed clients to enable access to work and improve health outcomes. This is an area for further investigation in the coming months.

4.3.5 Future Funding – Recognising much of the employment & skills agenda is heavily reliant on external funding and the number of residents requiring additional support to overcome barriers to accessing work, there's a need for clarity on priorities and fit with emerging opportunities under Shared Prosperity Fund and the Stronger Towns Fund.

Transport Thematic Lead Portfolio Up-date

Williams Rail Review

5.1 The Williams Review was launched by the Government in September 2018 as a 'root-and-branch' examination of the UK's railway industry. Since the Joint Transport Committee's initial response in January further responses have been made expressing additional concerns with the evidence papers published so far by the Review team. NECA has also continued to press the case for greater devolution of rail powers. The main concerns are:

- The significant regional variations in terms of passenger numbers, freight volumes, rail investment and satisfaction levels
- The potential for rail to assist with local growth plans and rebalance the

economy

- The environmental benefits of rail, especially in congested urban areas
- The opportunities offered by regional variations in rail provision – for example our ability to take decisions locally about services on the Metro
- The need for management of the railway to be more locally aligned
- The fact that Britain does not feature highly in international rankings of rail investment and performance
- The importance of rail freight – the Review appears skewed toward the needs of passengers who, though important, are not the only users of the railway and therefore not the only potential contributors to economic growth and social and environmental benefits
- Acknowledgement of the need for ongoing financial support from the public purse, particularly for large capital projects and potential for local investment
- The need for clear lines of responsibility that are apparent to passengers.
- The bias in the current method of appraising rail proposals against less well populated areas where the railway provides a greater social need.

Rail Devolution - Local Control of Local railways

5.2 A high-level option assessment study has been commissioned, jointly with Tees Valley Combined Authority, from Systra transport consultants, to look at management and governance structures that could enable a significant uplift in the quality of North East passenger rail services.

Systra have now concluded the first phase of work. The second phase of work has been amended in the light of the Williams Review, with the aim of influencing the Review in favour of more local control in the North East. Systra therefore considered six options which would provide an iterative approach to increased devolution:

1) North East Regional Management Unit (NERMU) “max” (short term): to get the best outcomes possible from existing governance structure; create specific managerial + local consultation framework for North East Railways (NER) services within TfN Rail North Partnership.

2) Line of Route concessions (new lines): In continental Europe, local authorities sponsor “line of route” concessions for individual/small groups of services to launch new services or increase frequency or quality on existing routes;

3) North Eastern Railways (NER) Micro Franchise (short to medium term): local rail services across the North East (including Tees Valley) could be let as a separate Micro Franchise, or a “Franchise within a Franchise” on the West

Midlands model.

4) NER Operating Concession (short to medium term): train services are provided on a Concession basis within the wider Northern Franchise with mechanism to facilitate change on no-net-gain/no-net-loss basis during concession period, but marketing, fares, stations etc. are responsibility of NER Concessionaire.

5) NER Concession including Metro (medium to long term): the NER Operating Concession could be enlarged to include the Tyne and Wear Metro.

6) Vertically Integrated franchise, including all non-ECML rail infrastructure (long term): the final option evaluated was the transfer of all non-ECML rail assets to local ownership covering all secondary rail routes between Carlisle and the Tees Valley.

High Speed Rail (HS2) and Northern Powerhouse Rail

HS2 has the potential to develop the North East economy through transformed rail links. This positive scenario will only occur if:

5.3

- HS2 Phase 2b (the high-speed link from the Midlands to Leeds and York) is committed to and fully funded by the government, and;
- The East Coast Main Line corridor between York and Newcastle receives significant investment in the period 2024-2033 to make it 'HS2-ready' and to enable HS2 trains to continue to Scotland.

If this is not achieved, it will have a negative effect holding the North East back while other parts of the country benefit from improved intercity train services.

Construction is starting on phase one of HS2 (London to Birmingham), with an estimated opening date in 2026. Phase 2b would link the midlands to Yorkshire, where the line will split with one spur to Leeds and another towards York. From York, it is planned for HS2 services to use a link to the East Coast Mainline (ECML) to reach the North East, giving the region direct access to the HS2 network. If approved by Government, HS2 phase 2b including the link to the ECML will open in 2033. Transport Scotland is examining the case for the trains to travel via an upgraded ECML to Scotland.

The North East needs HS2 because:

- A sustained increase in passenger numbers since the early 1990s has put pressure on the existing rail network;
- Although HS2 trains will run faster than existing ones, it is not just about speed. Whilst it will transform journey times for the region, particularly to the Midlands, it will also deliver extra capacity nationally (although not in

the North East). This will relieve pressure on existing lines, opening opportunities to expand other services, such as freight;

- HS2 Phase 2b will be key in supporting the development of Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR). A junction South of York will accommodate HS2 and NPR services travelling to and from our region, enabling nationwide connectivity. In addition, NPR proposals elsewhere in the North rely upon HS2 funding and improvements, particularly on the approach to city entries in Manchester and Leeds. Without HS2 Phase 2b, we are unlikely to maximise the full benefits of NPR;
- Without HS2 Phase 2b, the business cases for NPR and upgrading the ECML will be more difficult, given the lack of incentive to support a nationally significant scheme; and
- The North East SEP refresh highlights the lack of committed investment in the ECML and the need to tackle this challenge to enable HS2 Phase 2b. This will facilitate the efficient movement of goods and people, helping to drive the region’s economy forward. Therefore, the region must support HS2 Phase 2b, by lobbying Government and continued participation in TfN and ECMA as described later in this report.

HS2 Ltd consulted on its plans for Phase 2b of HS2 late last year. A response emphasising the above points and emphasising the need for extra capacity on the ECML north of Northallerton not only for HS2 Phase 2b in 2033 but also more immediately was therefore submitted.

Recent Activity:

5.3.1

There is continued activity, in partnership with the Consortium of East Coast Mainline Authorities (ECMA) and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the East Coast Main Line, to emphasise the need for investment in the ECML in order for the full benefits of HS2 to be realised.

In May, Leaders from across the north wrote to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to re-state the importance of HS2 to the North and request commitment to Phase 2b in the Government Spending Review which will conclude in the autumn.

Transport for the North (TfN) / Northern Powerhouse Rail

5.4

Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) is being led jointly by DfT and Transport for the North (TfN). The aim of the project is to deliver more and faster rail journeys between principal locations in the North – for example saving an hour on a journey from Newcastle to Manchester.

In February, the TfN Board, approved the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) for the NPR Network, and subsequently submitted it to government for approval. The network is split into interlinked corridors and for the Leeds to Newcastle corridor the proposals include a suite of interventions in Yorkshire and then a significantly upgraded ECML to the North East.

Improvements will be required at Newcastle station and services may run through Newcastle to Sunderland or Edinburgh. The SOBC has a positive cost benefit ratio and if approved will enable more detailed work to be carried out on both the economic modelling and infrastructure refinement to reach a preferred option for detail design and ultimately construction. As NPR and HS2 are intrinsically linked, TfN is working to the same delivery timetable for the Leeds – Newcastle corridor as per HS2 Phase2b i.e. open by 2033.

Recent Activity:

5.4.1

In April, the Secretary of State for Transport wrote to the Chief Executive Officer of Transport for the North, stating that he was content that the SOBC provided a sound evidence base for the next stage of development of NPR.

This work will involve the development of a preferred option and phasing plan for the scheme. It is envisaged that this revised Business Case will be submitted to Government in 2020.

In addition, through 2019, TfN is being tasked with bolstering the evidence base for the plan through additional modelling of the corridor studies that underpin it, the completion of a further rail and road study in this region and rolling out further phases of the Integrated and Smart Ticketing Programme.

Strategic Road Network (SRN)

5.5

The North East Regional Transport Team works closely with Transport for the North and Highways England (HE) on the development of Strategic Highways schemes as well as the development of a Major Road Network (MRN) for the North.

In March, Cllr Martin Gannon wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport to confirm priorities that we wish to see include in the next Road Investment Strategy (RIS2) – improvements at Seaton Burn and Moor Farm roundabouts.

We received a response from the Transport Secretary on 3rd April, stating that the DfT will announce which investments that will be included in RIS2 by the end of 2019.

TfN are working with partners on a set of Major Roads Network / Large Local

Majors road improvement schemes that will form a Regional Evidence Base to be submitted to the Department for Transport in July for funding through the National Roads Fund.

5.5.1

Recent Activity: 6 schemes were submitted by this region for possible delivery through this fund, as part of 38 schemes submitted across the whole of the north. TfN are developing a final shortlist of 10-12 schemes and we are liaising with individual scheme promoters.

5.6

Electric Vehicles

Much of our existing electric vehicle infrastructure requires renewal or upgrading and we are exploring options for doing this on a co-ordinated regional basis. Funding has also been secured from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles and the European Regional Development Fund to introduce 11 new rapid charging clusters across the region and to deliver an Electric Vehicle Filling Station at Sunderland, one of the UK's first.

5.6.1

Recent activity – The new EV filling station in Sunderland was opened last month, with a formal opening planned for summer 2019.

Transforming Cities Fund – Future Mobility Zone Proposals

5.7

The DfT's Future Mobility Zone (FMZ) funding will select areas to trial initiatives around the ability of new technology to influence future transport provision. Areas eligible to bid for funding include those selected to bid for Transforming Cities funding as well as those mayoral combined authorities with transport powers. It is anticipated that up to three regions (from a list of 18) will be selected to access a share of £70m.

FMZ timescales differ to Transforming Cities. Currently, FMZ is at a non-committal Expression of Interest (EOI) stage, to establish which regions will enter period of collaboration with the DfT to ultimately secure funds.

At this EOI stage the scope is broad. DfT indicate that they wish to consider EOIs which respond to the following objectives:

- Trialling and evaluating new mobility services, modes and models at scale;
- Creating a functioning market place for mobility that combines new and traditional modes of transport;
- Approaches to provide lower income households with access to future forms of mobility; and
- Delivering efficiencies through shared (dynamic) demand responsive

transport.

In the North East FMZ will be a flexible testbed as “trial and improvement” methodology is applied. Examples of initiatives which could be trialled around our region include:

- Digital Journey planning and payment in one place – a digital evolution of Pop card to bring planning and payment across all modes, including walking, cycling and new modes together, a feat yet to be achieved elsewhere;
- New Modes – trials of emerging means to travel including reactive on demand solutions and micro-mobility vehicles such as e-scooters and e-bikes;
- Mobility Gateways – seamless and navigable transition points from one mode to another, including new and micro modes, and linked into the existing public transport network;
- Mobility Credits – economically disadvantaged groups and individuals will be able to discreetly access discounted travel to help them reach opportunities;
- Connected-ITS- new technological solutions to better manage our transport network, for example making buses more punctual and making crossing the road less daunting for those who may need help.
- The rich data and learnings from these new and existing data streams will be consolidated and processed at the Institute of Future Mobility (IFM) which will step up the work already achieved in this and related fields by regional universities.

Next Steps

5.7.1

The expression of interest was submitted to DfT in May 2019. The DfT will then select six proposals from across the English city regions for further development, and we will have two months to work with the Department to develop our proposals and prepare a final submission. If successful, our Future Mobility Zone will be established in Autumn 2019.

Transforming Cities Fund – Developing the Tranche 2 Programme

5.8

Last year NECA set out a vision for the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) bid in the successful Expression of Interest (EOI), that demonstrated significant ambition and hinted at large-scale interventions: “More sustainable connectivity, and more mobility, making sustainable transport the natural choice for people moving around our city region, banishing congestion and its polluting effects, and improving air quality and public health.”

Having been awarded £10million in Tranche 1, NECA have finalised the programme of schemes that will form our Tranche 2 bid. TCF Tranche 2 is a competitive bidding process in which the North East is competing with eleven other areas.

The funding available for Tranche 2 is much larger. It is anticipated that bids in excess of £300 million will be submitted for the JTC area (the submission of high, medium and low cost options is a requirement of the bidding process).

A sift of schemes from across the JTC area has been conducted in relation to their ability to deliver and impact on the TCF objectives. From this different bid scenarios have been developed based on the best performing projects.

High, Medium and Low-Cost Scenarios

Draft bids for the high, medium and low scenarios were developed for JTC approval JTC prior to submission to DfT. All bids include two major local rail/Metro schemes: the restoration of passenger services to the Ashington, Blyth and Tyne Line (Northumberland Line), and the dualling of the single track section of the Metro Line to South Shields. The latter will have wider benefits across the Metro network, improving reliability and allowing for an increased frequency of service.

In addition to these schemes the packages contain a mix of smaller rail, bus, cycle and walking schemes.

The bid submitted in June took the form of a draft Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) that sets out the strategic case for our TCF investment, drawing links between our transport proposals and achieving of wider goals such as decarbonisation and the emerging content of our Local Industrial Strategy.

The SOBC was supported by detailed economic, commercial, financial and management cases. The economic case is important as this sets out the costs and benefits of the programmes, which are important indicators used by DfT to judge competing transport investments.

Next Steps

5.8.1

A period of 'co-development' with DfT will then take place over the months that follow, leading to a final submission in late November 2019.

North East Transport Plan

5.9

Work is continuing on the North East Transport Plan, covering both the North of Tyne and North East Combined Authority areas.

McDonough Marketing Communication was commissioned to undertake a piece

of research to help shape the direction of the Plan. They did so by carrying out a series of facilitated discussions, both individually and collectively, with the Leaders from all seven local authorities and their respective senior officers. The research is now completed and will shape the Transport Plan accordingly.

The team are working towards producing a draft Plan for approval in summer. A public consultation would then follow, the results of which could be incorporated later this year with the final version of the Plan ready for publication in Spring 2020.

6. Reasons for the Proposals

- 6.1 This report provides an up-date to the NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the thematic portfolio leads, highlighting significant developments and projects for the NECA area and the identification of future strategic priorities.

7. Alternative Options Available

- 7.1 This is a report for information and there are no alternative options available.

8. Next Steps and Timetable for Implementation

- 8.1 Further updates from Thematic Leads will be presented to the Committee at subsequent meetings.

9. Potential Impact on Objectives

- 9.1 The scrutiny of the Thematic Portfolio leads by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee support the principles of effective decision making and ensures good governance across the Combined Authority

10. Financial and Other Resources Implications

- 10.1 There are no financial or other resource implications associated with this report.

11. Legal Implications

- 11.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

12. Key Risks

12.1 There are no specific risk management issues arising from this report.

13. Equality and Diversity

13.1 There are no specific equality and diversity issues arising from this report.

14. Crime and Disorder.

14.1 There are no specific crime and disorder issues arising from this report.

15. Consultation/Engagement

15.1 This report demonstrates the wide range of activities being taken forward by NECA many of which are in collaboration with key regional and national partners. The development of these policy and delivery priorities depends on strong engagement and consultation with the Combined Authority's Constituent Authorities and wider partners.

16. Other Impact of the Proposals

16.1 There are no other known impacts on the proposals.

17. Appendices

17.1 None

18. Background Papers

18.1 None

19. Contact Officers

19.1 Sarah McMillan, Corporate Lead, Economic Strategy & Skills, South Tyneside Council, sarah.mcmillan@southtyneside.gov.uk

20. Sign off

- 20.1
- ✓ Head of Paid Service
 - ✓ Monitoring Officer
 - ✓ Chief Finance Officer

21. Glossary

21.1 None

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Agenda Item 5

Date: 18 July 2019

Subject: Forward Plan and Scrutiny Work Programme

Report of: Deputy Monitoring Officer

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to consider the items on the Forward Plan for the current 28-day period and discuss items for the Work Programme for 2019 / 2020.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- i. Review the current Forward Plan and consider which items they may wish to examine in more detail;
- ii. Suggest any items for the Work Programme for 2019/2020 that Members would wish to explore in more detail, either at the Committee or via a 'deep dive' or working group;

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. Background Information

- 1.1 The Forward Plan is a document which NECA is required to maintain under the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017. The Forward Plan is published on NECA's website and lists the decisions that the North East Combined Authority intends to take in the coming months and must include all decisions to be made in the next 28 days.
- 1.2 The Forward Plan template contains specific information relating to each decision, including the date the decision will be made, a brief explanation of the topic, the consultation to be undertaken, and contact details of the author. The Forward Plan template has recently been updated and includes further information including if the decision is a 'Key Decision' and if an item will be discussed in private.
- 1.3 Details of each decision are included on the Forward Plan 28 days before the report is considered and any decision is taken. This supports the transparency of decision making within the Combined Authority and allows members of the public to see the items that will be discussed. There are special procedures for circumstances where publication for the full 28 clear day period is impractical or where there is special urgency. Both of these procedures involve the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and would be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting.

Role of Overview and Scrutiny

- 1.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee examine any decisions of the North East Combined Authority – be that by the principal decision-making body or a committee or officer holding delegated authority. This Scrutiny occurs in public and ensures democratic and public accountability.
- 1.5 One of the main functions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the review and scrutiny of 'Key Decisions' made by the NECA Leadership Board and Officers of the Combined Authority. The relevant regulations set out a test for what should be considered a Key Decision – being those which are most significant in financial or other terms. This is explained in the Decision-Making Protocol adopted by the Committee on the 15 March 2018. At the inaugural meeting of the NECA Leadership Board on the 13 November, following the governance changes, it was agreed that the Decision Making Protocol would remain in place:

<https://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/NECA-Decision-Making-Protocol.pdf>

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 1.6 It is NECA’s practice to include formal decisions on the Forward Plan to maximise the opportunity for review and scrutiny. In considering items in the Forward Plan, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should determine which areas scrutiny can add most value to in relation to the decisions being made.
- 1.7 The Forward Plan at the date this paper was issued is attached marked as Appendix 1. The up to date forward plan is always published at <https://www.northeastca.gov.uk/committee-meetings/forward-plan>.

Update on Requests for Special Urgency / General Exception

- 1.8 In accordance with the Decision Making Protocol, it was agreed by Members that the request of any Short Notice Procedure that involved the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be reported at the next Committee. The table below shows the number of requests made since the last meeting was held:

Type of Short Notice Procedure	Number of Requests since previous Committee
Requests for Special Urgency	0
Request for General Exception	0

- 1.9 The table above reflects that there have been no requests for general exception and no requests for special urgency since the last Committee.

Annual Work Programme - Update

- 1.10 The most recent version of the work programme has been compiled to allow the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to consider items that they have requested.
- 1.11 The work programme is also designed to give an overview of all performance, decision-taking and developments within the NECA, as well as being focused and flexible to allow for new issues and recognising the capacity of the scrutiny committee to respond in a timely way to emerging developments throughout the year. The Plan allows the Committee to take a longer term view than the Forward Plan, adding a longer term perspective to the Committee’s work. Advantages of a longer term perspective is the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of matters and to allow for more constructive engagement and scrutiny.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 1.12 Members are also invited to comment and give consideration to any additional items they would wish to consider on their Work Programme or those decisions where they can add value.

NECA Workshop

- 1.13 Members noted at previous meetings that a workshop focusing on the transport issues, governance and a general update on other related matters would be useful. It was noted that a workshop with other NECA Committee members may be useful to ensure everyone was briefed on regional transport matters. Plans are ongoing, in consultation with the Chair, for the Workshop to be arranged.

Timeline of Activity

- 1.14 Members are asked to note and comment on the timeline of the proposed activity outlined in the 'Review of decision-making following governance changes' report, which could ensure more effective scrutiny and decision making.

Update of Decision Making Protocol

- 1.15 Following the recent governance changes, the Decision Making Protocol agreed by the Committee may need some update to reflect the changes and include the Joint Transport Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A review of this has been undertaken by Officers and the Decision Making Protocol is fit for purpose in its current form. However, as developments are implemented to improve decision making and scrutiny, the Protocol will continue to be reviewed as part of this process.

2. Proposals

- 2.1 Committee Members are invited to review the Forward Plan for the current 28-day period – giving consideration to any items they may wish to examine in more detail – and to suggest any items for addition to the Annual Work Programme for 2019/20.

3. Reasons for the Proposals

- 3.1 To provide an opportunity for Committee members to input on any additional items as part of continued planning for the Work Programme for 2019/20.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4. Alternative Options Available

4.1 Option 1 – The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may review Forward Plan and suggest additional items for the Work Programme.

Option 2 – The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may choose not to review the Forward Plan or consider any additional items for the Work Programme.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

5. Next Steps and Timetable for Implementation

5.1 In considering the Forward Plan, Members are asked to consider those issues where the Scrutiny Committee could make a contribution and add value.

5.2 If the Overview and Scrutiny Committee determines to review or scrutinise a decision notified in the Forward Plan, a meeting of the Committee will be arranged to allow scrutiny members to carry out their role in a timely manner.

5.3 The work programme will be refreshed and updated at each meeting of the Committee throughout the year.

6. Potential Impact on Objectives

6.1 Development of a work programme and review and scrutiny of decisions in the Forward Plan will contribute towards the development and implementation of the policy framework of the NECA, the Joint Transport Committee and the North East LEP as well as providing appropriate challenge to decisions making.

7. Financial and Other Resources Implications

7.1 No financial or other resource implications are identified at this stage.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from these recommendations.

9. Key Risks

9.1 There are no key risks associated with the recommendations made in this report.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10. Equality and Diversity

10.1 There are no specific equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

11. Crime and Disorder

11.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

12. Consultation/Engagement

12.1 On-going consultation takes place with Officers and Scrutiny Members across the NECA in regard to the items for the Annual Work Programme as Appendix 2.

13. Other Impact of the Proposals

13.1 The proposals consider the wider impact and take into account the Principles of Decision Making as set out in the NECA Constitution. They allow Members consideration of the items on the Forward Plan and allow them the opportunity to have an overview of all performance, decision making and developments across NECA.

14. Appendices

14.1 Appendix 1 – Forward Plan
Appendix 2 – Annual Work Programme

15. Background Papers

15.1 None.

16. Contact Officers

16.1 Nicola Robason, Deputy Monitoring Officer
Email: nicola.robason@southtyneside.gov.uk
Telephone Number: 0191 424 7186

17. Sign off

17.1 ✓ Head of Paid Service
✓ Monitoring Officer
✓ Chief Finance Officer



North East Combined Authority

DURHAM • GATESHEAD • SOUTH TYNESIDE • SUNDERLAND

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

18. Glossary

- 18.1 NECA - North East Combined Authority
North East LEP - North East Local Enterprise Partnership

Appendix One

Forward Plan



Forward Plan of Decisions

Published 2 July 2019 *

The Forward Plan for the North East Combined Authority (NECA) is prepared and published by the Monitoring Officer for the purpose of;

- A. Giving 28 days' notice of key decisions that are planned to be taken by the NECA, its Boards, Committees or Chief Officers
- B. Complete transparency about decisions – the Plan also includes an overview of non-key decisions to be taken by the Combined Authority or its Chief Officers

Included within the Forward Plan are decisions that are to be made by:

- [NECA Committees](#)
- [North East Joint Transport Committees](#)
- [Officers under delegation \(Delegated Decisions\)](#)

Unless otherwise indicated, if you require any further information or wish to make representations about any of the matters contained in the Forward Plan please contact the appropriate officer as detailed against each entry at least 7 days before the meeting.

***The most recent entries are referred to as “NEW”. Updated entries are referred to as “Updated”. Items withdrawn since the last publication are referred to as “Withdrawn” and following that will be removed altogether.**

Further information about the Forward Plan and NECA Decision Making can be found in ‘The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017’ and the NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s Decision Making Protocol which can be found at <http://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/NECA-Decision-Making-Protocol.pdf>

NECA Committees

Reference Number and Thematic Area	Decision expected to be made on or within 60 days of	Decision Type: Key or Non-Key	Decision Maker	Details of Decision to be taken	Additional Documents for consideration	Contact Officer	Decision to be made in Public or Private (and relevant category of exemption)
Leadership Board							
LB 2 (a) Corporate	23 July 2019	Non-Key	Leadership Board	Audit Completion Report To receive the Audit Completion Report of the External Auditor for Information.	NECA Statement of Accounts 2018/19	Jim Dafter Senior Manager Mazars LLP 07815876042 Jim.dafter@mazars.co.uk	Public
LB 2 (b) Corporate	23 July 2019	Non-Key	Leadership Board	Statement of Accounts 2018/19 To approve the Statement of Accounts.	NECA Statement of Accounts 2018/19	Eleanor Goodman Principal Accountant 0191277 7518 Eleanor.goodman@northeastca.gov.uk	Public
LB 2 (c) Corporate	23 July 2019	Non-Key	Leadership Board	Revenue Capital Update 2019/20 To provide information on the Revenue Capital.		Eleanor Goodman Principal Accountant 0191277 7518 Eleanor.goodman@northeastca.gov.uk	Public
LB 2 (d) Economic Development	23 July 2019	Non -Key	Leadership Board	Economic Development and Digital Thematic Update To note and provide any comments on		Vince Taylor	Public

Reference Number and Thematic Area	Decision expected to be made on or within 60 days of	Decision Type: Key or Non-Key	Decision Maker	Details of Decision to be taken	Additional Documents for consideration	Contact Officer	Decision to be made in Public or Private (and relevant category of exemption)
and Digital (Standard Item)				the update report.		Head of Economic Policy 0191 561 1113 Vince.taylor@sunderland.gov.uk	
LB 2 (e) (Standard Item) Chairman's Portfolio	23 July 2019	Non-Key	Leadership Board	Thematic Lead Portfolio Update Report from the Chair To provide an update on the Chair's Thematic Lead Portfolio – For Information and Comment.		George Mansbridge Acting Corporate Director, Economic Regeneration 0191 424 7969 George.mansbridge@southtyneside.gov.uk	Public
LB 2 (f) Corporate	23 July 2019	Non-Key	Leadership Board	Brexit – North East Preparations To provide an update on the Brexit Work Programme Update.		Sarah McMillan Corporate Lead Economic Strategy and Skills 0191 424 7948 Sarah.mcmillan@southtyneside.gov.uk	Public
LB 2 (g) Transport (Standard Item)	23 July 2019	Non-Key	Leadership Board	Transport Thematic Lead Portfolio Update Report To provide an update on the Transport Thematic Lead Portfolio		Andrew Marshall andrewmarshall@gateshead.gov.uk	Public

Reference Number and Thematic Area	Decision expected to be made on or within 60 days of	Decision Type: Key or Non-Key	Decision Maker	Details of Decision to be taken	Additional Documents for consideration	Contact Officer	Decision to be made in Public or Private (and relevant category of exemption)
LB 2 (h) Finance and Skills and Employment (Standard Item)	23 July 2019	Non-Key	Leadership Board	Finance and Skills and Employment Thematic Lead Portfolio Update Report To provide an update on the Finance and Skills and Employment Thematic Lead Portfolio.		Ian Thompson Corporate Director Durham ian_thompson@durham.gov.uk	Public
LB 2 (i) Economic Development and Digital	23 July 2019	Non-Key	Leadership Board	North East LEP LGF Programme Funding Update To receive an LGF programme funding update.	North East Strategic Economic Plan North East Energy Strategy	Ray Browning Programme Manager, North East LEP Ray.browning@nel.ep.co.uk 0191 561 5427	Private – Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
Audit and Standards Sub-Committee							
There are no meetings currently scheduled.							
Audit and Standards Committee							
A&S 1 (a)	22 July	Non-Key	Audit and Standards	Audit Completion Report		Eleanor Goodman	Public

Reference Number and Thematic Area	Decision expected to be made on or within 60 days of	Decision Type: Key or Non-Key	Decision Maker	Details of Decision to be taken	Additional Documents for consideration	Contact Officer	Decision to be made in Public or Private (and relevant category of exemption)
Corporate	2019		Committee	To provide an update for information on the work of Mazars, the External Auditors to the Combined Authority.		Principal Accountant 0191277 7518 Eleanor.goodman@northeastca.gov.uk	
A&S 1 (b) Corporate	22 July 2019	Non-Key	Audit and Standards Committee	Statement of Accounts 2018/19 To review and comment on the Statement of Accounts for 2018/19 and recommend them to the Leadership Board for approval.		Eleanor Goodman Principal Accountant 0191277 7518 Eleanor.goodman@northeastca.gov.uk	
Overview and Scrutiny Committee							
OS 1 (a)	18 July 2019 (Standing Item)	Non-Key	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	NECA Forward Plan and Scrutiny Work Programme To receive the latest version of the Forward Plan and annual work programme.		Nicola Robason Deputy Monitoring Officer 01914247186 Nicola.robason@sothtyneside.gov.uk	Public
OS1 (b)	18 July 2019	Non-Key	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Thematic Lead Update Reports This report will update NECA Overview and Scrutiny on the NECA Leadership Board Portfolios – for information and comment		Nicola Robason Deputy Monitoring Officer 01914247186 Nicola.robason@sothtyneside.gov.uk	Public

Reference Number and Thematic Area	Decision expected to be made on or within 60 days of	Decision Type: Key or Non-Key	Decision Maker	Details of Decision to be taken	Additional Documents for consideration	Contact Officer	Decision to be made in Public or Private (and relevant category of exemption)
Economic Development and Digital Advisory Board (EDDAB)							
ED1 (a) Economic Development and Digital	30 July 2019	Non-Key	Economic Development and Digital Advisory Board	Economic Development and Digital Progress Updates The members will be requested to note and provide any comments on the report	North East Strategic economic Plan – More and Better Jobs	Vince Taylor Head of Economic Policy 01915611113 Vince.taylor@sunderland.gov.uk	Public
ED1 (b) Economic Development and Digital	30 Jul 2019	Non-Key	Economic Development and Digital Advisory Board	NECA Skills Agenda A presentation to be given on the skills agenda and the associate issues in relation to economic growth.	North East Strategic economic Plan – More and Better Jobs	Vince Taylor Head of Economic Policy 01915611113 Vince.taylor@sunderland.gov.uk	Public
ED1 (c) Economic Development and Digital	30 July 2019	Non-Key	Economic Development and Digital Advisory Board	Economic Development and Digital Advisory Board Review – Progress Update Members are requested to note the progress made on the review of the Board and provide any comments.	North East Strategic economic Plan – More and Better Jobs	Vince Taylor Head of Economic Policy 01915611113 Vince.taylor@sunderland.gov.uk	Public

North East Joint Transport Committees

Reference Number	Decision expected to be made on or within 60 days of	Decision Type: Key or Non-Key	Decision Maker	Details of Decision to be taken	Additional Documents for consideration	Contact Officer	Decision to be made in Public or Private (and relevant category of exemption)
North East Joint Transport Committee (JTC)							
The meeting due to take place on 16 July 2019 has been cancelled.							
JTC 3 (a)	17 Sept 2019 Standing Item	Non-key	Joint Transport Committee	Regional Transport Update To provide an update on the latest transport issues in the region	None	Tobyn Hughes Managing Director Transport North East (0191) 203 3246 tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk	Public
North East Joint Transport Committee Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee (TWSC)							
JTC TW 2 (a)	19 Sept 2019 Standing item	Non-key	Joint Transport Committee Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee	Nexus' Corporate Risks 2019/20 To present members with Nexus' Corporate Risk Register for 2019/20. The report identifies the corporate risks for 2019/20 including any mitigating actions put in place.	None	Tobyn Hughes Managing Director Transport North East (0191) 203 3246 tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk	Public
JTC TW 2 (b)	19 Sept 2019 Standing Item	Non-key	Joint Transport Committee Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee	Monitoring Nexus' Performance 2018/19 To provide members with an update on Nexus' corporate performance for 2018/19 including Metro performance.	Nexus Corporate Plan 2019/20 https://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/JTC-Tyne-and-Wear-	Tobyn Hughes Managing Director Transport North East (0191) 203 3246 tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk	Public

Reference Number	Decision expected to be made on or within 60 days of	Decision Type: Key or Non-Key	Decision Maker	Details of Decision to be taken	Additional Documents for consideration	Contact Officer	Decision to be made in Public or Private (and relevant category of exemption)
					Sub-Committee-31-January-2019-Agenda-Pack.pdf	us.org.uk	
North East Joint Transport Committee Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JTC Overview and Scrutiny Committee)							
JTC OS 1 (a)	18 July 2019 (Standing Item)	Non-key	JTC Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Joint Transport Committee Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme To receive the latest version of the annual work programme.	Held by the Contact Officer	Mike Barker 0191 433 2100 mikebarker@gateshead.gov.uk	Public
JTC OS 1 (b)	18 July 2019	Non-key	JTC Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Williams Rail Review The Williams Rail Review team has issued calls for evidence to assist it with their comprehensive 'root and branch' rail review. The North East, through the Joint Transport Committee has put forward views, to press for the benefits of a more accountable local rail services through further local devolution.	Williams Rail Review. https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/rail-review Joint Transport Committee Report https://northeastca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/North-East-Joint-Transport-Committee-22-January-2019-Agenda-Pack.pdf	Tobyn Hughes Managing Director Transport North East (0191) 203 3246 tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk	Public
JTC OS 1 (c)	18 July 2019	Non-Key	JTC Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Tyne Pedestrian Tunnel Update To provide an update on the Tyne and Pedestrian Tunnel	Reports available from the Contact Officer.	Alastair Swan Principal Engineer 0191 211 5931 Alastair.swan@newcastle.gov.uk	Private (By virtue of paragraph(s) 3,5 of Part 1 Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reference Number	Decision expected to be made on or within 60 days of	Decision Type: Key or Non-Key	Decision Maker	Details of Decision to be taken	Additional Documents for consideration	Contact Officer	Decision to be made in Public or Private (and relevant category of exemption)
North East Joint Transport Committee Audit Committee (JTC Audit Committee)							
<p>The meeting due to be held on 11 July 2019 has been cancelled.</p> <p>The next meeting will take place on 12 September 2019. There are currently no items scheduled.</p>							

Officer Delegated Decisions

Reference Number and Thematic Area	Decision expected to be made on or within 60 days of	Decision Type: Key or Non-Key	Decision Maker	Details of Decision to be taken	Additional Documents for consideration	Contact Officer	Decision to be made in Public or Private (and relevant category of exemption)
DD 111 Economic Development and Regeneration UPDATED	30 June 2019	Non-Key	Monitoring Officer	Incubator Support Fund: Woods II Incubator To agree to the financial and legal matters associated with any North East LEP decision to award a grant from the Incubator Support Fund application relating to the Woods II Incubator project.	Confidential LEP Technical Officer Group report Confidential LEP Investment Board report Confidential project business case and supporting documents Confidential project appraisal report	Ben McLaughlin Programme Support Officer 0191 3387446 ben.mclaughlin@nelep.co.uk	Private – the report will contain “exempt” information which falls within paragraph 3 of part 1 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972)
DD113 Economic Development and Regeneration UPDATED	30 June 2019	Non- Key	Monitoring Officer	Incubator Support Fund: Fenwick Incubator To agree to the financial and legal matters associated with any North East LEP decision to award a grant from the Incubator Support Fund application relating to the Fenwick Incubator project.	Confidential project business case and supporting documents Confidential project appraisal report	Ben McLaughlin Programme Support Officer 0191 3387446 ben.mclaughlin@nelep.co.uk	Private – the report will contain “exempt” information which falls within paragraph 3 of part 1 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Appendix Two

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2019/2020 July – September 2019

Standing Items for each Committee Meeting:

- Declaration of Interest
- Minutes of Previous Meeting
- NECA Forward Plan and Work Programme Report

Source of work programme and items of importance:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee obtains work programme items from the following sources:

- a) Items submitted by Members of the Committee (and including items referred by other members of the Combined Authority);
- b) Suggestions NECA Chief Officers; Martin Swales – Head of Paid Service, Mike Harding – Monitoring Officer / Nicola Robason – Deputy Monitoring Officer and John Hewitt – Chief Finance Officer / Paul Darby – Deputy Finance Officer
- c) The Budget and Policy Framework; Transport Plan and Strategic Economic Plan
- d) The Forward Plan;
- e) The Thematic Leads;
- f) Evidence for any policy review work of relevance to NECA

Planned Items

Item	Lead Officer	Update
Tyne Pedestrian Tunnel Update	Alastair Swan	JTC O&S Committee – 18 July at 2.00pm

Items for future consideration (2019-2020)

Item	Lead Officer
Strategic Economic Plan Yearly update	Head of Paid Service (M Swales)
Digital Connectivity Update	Thematic Lead (Cllr G Miller) or appropriate

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	Deputy – To be confirmed
Fair Funding	John Hewitt
Impact of Brexit on the North East	Head of Paid Service (M Swales) Sarah McMillan
NECA’s economic initiatives	Vince Taylor
Environmental Plan and the impact on the region	To be confirmed
Local Industrial Strategy and the Industrial Strategy	Martin Swales, Vince Taylor and Richard Baker
Concessionary fares review	To be confirmed
Workshop on NECA leadership, governance, transport and collaborative working	To be confirmed – to be held in July 2019. This has been delayed due to Elizabeth Lunn, NECA Policy and Scrutiny Officer leaving the organisation and the need for a recruitment process