

**North East Combined Authority, Leadership Board**

**Agenda Item 3**

4 June 2019

(2.00 - 2.30 pm)

Meeting held at Town Hall and Civic Offices, Westoe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE33 2RL

**Present:**

Councillor : I Malcolm (Chair)

Councillors: M Gannon, G Miller and C Marshall

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (MEMBERS)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Henig, Andrew Hodgson and Gillian Hall.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEADERSHIP BOARD**

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

The report set out for consideration the proposed membership of the Leadership Board for the municipal year 2019/20.

**RESOLVED** – That:

- i. The membership of the Leadership Board for the municipal year 2019/20 be confirmed as set out in Appendix A of the report;
- ii. Councillor Iain Malcolm be appointed as Chair of the Leadership Board and Councillor Simon Henig be appointed as Vice-Chair for the municipal year 2019/20 and
- iii. The Thematic Leads for the Thematic Lead Areas for the municipal year 2019/20 be appointed as follows: (i) Economic Development and

Digital – Councillor Graeme Miller, (ii) Finance and Skills and Employability – Councillor Simon Henig and (iii) Transport – Councillor Martin Gannon.

**4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2019**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 April 2019 were approved as a correct record.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

There were no announcements from the Chair or the Head of Paid Service.

**6. APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES, AGREEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS, APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Submitted: Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

Members considered the report which sought agreement to the continued establishment of the committees of the North East Combined Authority (NECA) together with the appointment of Members, Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the NECA committees. In addition appointments were sought to outside bodies as well as to the North East Joint Transport Committees and the Transport for the North Committees.

The report also provided information on the continued appointment of the External Auditor and sought agreement to continue with the appointment of an Independent person for the purpose of Standards Regime.

**RESOLVED:** That:

- i. The appointments to Committees as set out in Appendix A (Parts A to D) be approved;
- ii. The nominations for the membership of the committees and sub-committees that had been received from the constituent local authorities, as set out in Appendix A (Parts A to D) of the report be accepted;
- iii. The term of office of the Independent Members of the Audit and Standards Committee, and its Chair and Vice-Chair, Mr Mark Scrimshaw and Mr George Clark respectively, be extended for a further term of one year;
- iv. The term of office of the Independent Person for the purpose of Standards Regime, Ms Stella Gardener, be extended for a further term of one year;
- v. Extend the term of office of the Independent Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and its Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, Mr David Taylor-Gooby and Mr Simon Hart for a further one year term;

- vi. Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the committees for the Municipal Year 2019/20 be appointed as follows:
  - (a) Joint Transport Committee
    - The Thematic Lead for Transport, Councillor Martin Gannon, to be proposed as the Chair of the Joint Transport Committee, the Joint Transport Committee to make this appointment.
  - (b) Economic Development and Regeneration Board
    - The Thematic Lead for Economic Development and Digital, Councillor Graeme Miller, to be appointed Chair of EDRAB.
    - Previously the Leadership Board delegated the appointment of Vice-Chair of EDRAB to the Board. It had been previously agreed by the Leadership Board that the second Vice-Chair of EDRAB should be appointed from the business representative Members. It was agreed to continue with this arrangement.
  - (c) For any further appointments it be agreed to delegate the appointment to the relevant committees where appropriate;
- vii. The appointment of Members and substitute Members to the North East Joint Transport Committee, as set out in Appendix A (Part E) be approved;
- viii. The nominations of Members and substitute Members to the committees and sub-committees of the North East Joint Transport Committee, be agreed for consideration by the Joint Transport Committee as set out in Appendix A (Part F to H);
- ix. The nominations to represent NECA on the Transport for the North committees were set out in Appendix A (Part I) be agreed as follows:
  - (a) Councillor Carl Marshall be appointed as the Member to represent NECA on Transport for the North Board and Councillor Graeme Miller be appointed as the Substitute Member and
  - (b) Councillor Michael Mordey be appointed as the Member to represent NECA on the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee and Councillor J McElroy be appointed as the Substitute Member and
- x. The position in relation to the continued appointment of Mazars as the External Auditor for 2019/20 be noted.

## **7. PROGRAMME OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Submitted: Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

Members considered the report which sought agreement to the programme of committee meetings for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

**RESOLVED** – That:

- i. the proposed programme of committee meetings, as set out in Appendix A, be agreed and
- ii. the proposed programme of Joint Transport Committee meetings, as set out in Appendix B of the report be noted, the dates will be considered for approval at the Annual Meeting of the Joint Transport Committee to be held on 18 June 2019.

## **8. REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION**

Submitted: Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

The Leadership Board considered the report which sought agreement to the amendments to the North East Combined Authority's Constitution following the Monitoring Officer's routine annual review of the Constitution.

### **RESOLVED – That:**

- i. That the following changes to the NECA Constitution as set out in Appendix A of the report be agreed:
  - (a) To amend the Thematic Lead areas as discussed in 2.1 of the report;
  - (b) To approve the designation of a new principal office for NECA for the service of notices and legal documents as discussed in 2.2 of the report and
  - (c) To amend paragraph 17 of Part 1 of the Constitution as set out in 2.3 of the report.
- ii. The changes be presented to the NECA Audit and Standards Committee for endorsement;
- iii. The Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to finalise any wording of amendments to the Constitution giving effect to the agreed changes by the Leadership Board and
- iv. The Monitoring Officer publish the Constitution on the NECA website.

## **9. NECA FINANCE UPDATE – SUMMARY**

Submitted: Report of the Chief Finance Officer (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

The report provided a summary of the revenue and capital provisional outturn position for the whole of the previous NECA area for 2018/19 for Transport and the North East LEP as well as an outturn position for NECA for the period to 1 November 2018 and from 2 November 2018 to 31 March 2019.

In 2018/19 there was a £0.117m underspend against the Transport Revenue budgets, which in line with the financial strategy previously agreed had been transferred to the NECA Transport Reserves, bringing the balance carried forward to £0.5m. A detailed report on the outturn for Transport will be presented to the North East Transport Committee on 18 June 2019.

The accounts will be presented to the Audit and Standards Committee for consideration and comment and then presented to the Leadership Board for approval at its meeting on 23 July 2019.

The Outturn position shows a small contribution to the LEP reserve of £0.011m, which has increased the retained LEP reserves carried forward to £0.585m.

**RESOLVED** – That the update be noted and the Audited Statement of Accounts for 2018/19 be presented to the Leadership Board for approval on 23 July 2019.

## 10. CHAIR THEMATIC PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Submitted: Report of the Chair of the NECA Leadership Board (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an update on activities of the Chair in support of the NECA overarching aims.

The Chair referred to a recent NECA strategy meeting where they had discussed the next steps and priorities of the Combined Authority. In order for NECA to continue to be effective it is important that it maintains strong working relationships with the North of Tyne Combined Authority, the North East LEP and the Tees Valley Combined Authority. He had written to Jamie Driscoll on behalf of NECA requesting that a strategy session be held between NECA ;Leadership Board and the North of Tyne Combined Authority.

Discussions continue with Transport for the North on the expansion of the Metro and economic growth in the region.

Given all partners own a share of Newcastle International Airport and both the North and South of Tyne have the Port of Tyne situated in their area it is important that we improve the offer of tourism for the North East as a region. We need to work on the Global Investment opportunities that exist.

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

## 11. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DIGITAL THEMATIC PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Submitted: Report of the Thematic Lead of Economic Development and Digital (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an update on activities within the Economic Development and Digital Theme.

The Strength in Places Fund is a new competitive funding scheme that takes a place-based approach to research and innovation funding to support local economic growth. Twenty three bids nationally had been invited to develop full stage bids, three of which are in the NECA area:

- Centre for Sustainable Advanced Manufacturing (CESAM);

- North East Cluster for Healthy Ageing and Independent Living (NE-CHAIN) and
- UK Hydrogen Corridor.

It was proposed by the EDRAB to change the name of the Board to “Economic Development and Digital Advisory Board”. The change of name would allow the role and work of the Advisory Board to be fully aligned with the Economic Development and Digital Theme

**RESOLVED** – That:

- i. That the update be noted and
- ii. Approval be given to the change of name of the Economic Development Regeneration and Advisory Board to “Economic Development and Digital Advisory Board.

## **12. FINANCE AND SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY THEMATIC PORTFOLIO UPDATE**

Submitted: Report of the Corporate Director (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an update on activities within the Finance and Skills and Employability Theme together with the baseline position for a future ‘Skills and Employment’ ask for the North East Combined Authority.

**RESOLVED** – That:

- i. That the update be noted and
- ii. NECA consider and provide a nomination to the Skills Advisory Panel which is currently under development by the North East LEP. It was agreed that the Chair of the Finance and Skills & Employability Portfolio, Cllr Henig, provide the said nomination to the Skills Advisory Panel at the appropriate time.

## **13. TRANSPORT THEMATIC PORTFOLIO UPDATE**

Submitted: Report of the Thematic Lead for Transport (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an update on activity and progress under the Transport theme of the Combined Authority.

The report provided details of a high-level option assessment study which had 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

A bid was to be submitted to the Transforming Cities Fund – Developing Tranche 2 Programme which included proposals to improve and connect the Metro across the whole of the region.

The High Speed Rail HS2 has potential to develop the North East Economy. The increased passenger numbers in the region has put pressure on existing rail networks. There is continued activity, in partnership with the Consortium of East Coast Mainline Authorities 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 the region. Leaders had written to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to re-state the importance of HS2 to the North and request commitment in the Government Spending Review to Phase2b, the development of Northern Powerhouse Rail.

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

**14. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

By virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the remainder of the meeting for the duration of consideration of agenda item 11 (confidential minutes) and item 12 (project approvals update report), because exempt information was likely to be disclosed and the public interest test against the disclosure was satisfied.

**15. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2019**

The confidential minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 April 2019 were approved as a correct record.

**16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 23 July 2019 at 2pm.