

## North East Combined Authority, Leadership Board

10 December 2019

(2.00pm - 2.15pm)

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

### Present:

**Councillors:** I Malcolm (Chair), M Gannon, C Marshall

**Officers:** Martin Swales (Chief Executive, South Tyneside), Sheena Ramsey (Chief Executive, Gateshead), Terry Collins (Chief Executive, Durham), Vince Taylor (Assistant Director of Economic Policy, Sunderland), John Hewitt (Chief Finance Officer, NECA), Nicola Robason (Deputy Monitoring Officer), Gavin Armstrong (Policy and Scrutiny Officer, NECA), Jonathan Lunn (Strategy and Democratic Services Assistant, NECA)

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (MEMBERS)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Miller, Councillor S Henig and Patrick Melia.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 05 NOVEMBER 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 05 November 2019 were approved as a correct record.

### 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

There were no announcements from the Chair.

### 5. NECA BUDGET PROPOSALS

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

The report provided an update on the NECA Budget Proposals and the North East Joint Transport Committee (JTC) deliberations on the transport budget proposals in line with the budget consultation process.

Since the previous Leadership Board meeting held 05 November 2019, the JTC held a meeting on 19 November 2019 to consider an updated report on the transport budget proposals.

The report outlined the draft proposed budget and levy for public passenger transport activity in County Durham and Northumberland. The report also included modelling for different scenarios of the levy in Tyne and Wear. This information had been requested by Members of the JTC and was attached to the report in Appendix 1. Members noted that the draft proposals were based on an overall cash freeze for the Tyne and Wear levy for 2020/21.

It was noted that proposals in relation to the NECA Corporate Budget, the North East Local Enterprise Project (NELEP) and Invest North East England (INEE) had not changed since the previous meeting but were presented in the report for information.

Members noted that final detailed proposals will be presented to the Leadership Board at the next meeting to be held 4 February 2019, which will require the unanimous agreement of all Members.

**RESOLVED That:**

- i. the report be received;
- ii. the following proposals for the NECA 2020/21 Revenue Budget be noted and that Transport related proposals will be further considered by the Joint Transport Committee on 21 January 2020:
  - a. The current £250,000 contribution towards the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP), funded by an equal contribution of £35,714.29 from the seven councils in the North East LEP area, which is required to match fund government grant, be continued in 2020/21;
  - b. The contribution to the Invest North East England (INEE) team of £20,000 per local authority be continued subject to discussion with constituent councils and the North East LEP. The current council contributions of £140,000, an equal contribution of £20,000 from the seven councils in the North East LEP area, is proposed to be continued in 2020/21;
  - c. The contribution from the NECA constituent authorities to NECA corporate costs of £22,857 per council be continued in 2020/21;
  - d. The £70,000 contribution towards the costs of the Joint Transport Committee Accountable Body role be continued in 2020/21 through an equal contribution of £10,000 from the seven local authority members of the North East Joint Transport Committee; and
  - e. The £70,000 contribution towards the costs of the North East LEP Accountable Body role be continued in 2020/21, through an equal contribution of £10,000 from the seven local authorities in the North East LEP area.

iii. noted that the final budget proposals will be presented to the Leadership Board at its meeting on 4 February 2020.

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

Tuesday 4 February 2019 at 2pm.

**7. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Under section 100A and Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the remainder of the meeting for consideration of Agenda Item 7 (Local Enterprise Partnership – Project Approval Report), because exempt information was likely to be disclosed and the public interest test against disclosure was satisfied.