



Leadership Board

Monday 14 September 2020 at 2.00pm

Meeting to be held virtually via Microsoft Teams

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AGENDA

Page No

1. **Apologies for Absence (Members)**

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 Previous Meeting held on 28 July 2020** 1-4

For approval as a correct record

4. **Announcements from the Chair**

5. **Governance Arrangements (Report to follow)** 5

6. **Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 3 November 2020 at 2.00pm

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North East Combined Authority, Leadership Board

Agenda Item 3

28 July 2020

(2.00pm - 3.00pm)

Meeting held virtually via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Councillors: I Malcolm (Chair), M Gannon, G Miller

Officers: Patrick Melia (Chief Executive, Sunderland), Sheena Ramsey (Chief Executive, Gateshead), Terry Collins (Chief Executive, Durham), Nicola Robason (Deputy Monitoring Officer, NECA), John Hewitt (Chief Finance Officer, NECA), Vince Taylor (Economic Lead Officer, NECA), George Mansbridge (Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment, South Tyneside), Amanda Healy (Director of Public Health, Durham), Gavin Armstrong (Policy and Scrutiny Officer, NECA), Jonathan Lunness (Strategy and Democratic Services Assistant, NECA), Karen Connolly (Strategy and Democratic Services Assistant, South Tyneside)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (MEMBERS)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Henig, Cllr Marshall, Martin Swales and Gillian Hall.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 03 MARCH 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 03 March 2020 were approved as a correct record.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair informed Members that this meeting was the first NECA Leadership Board to be held virtually. It was noted that the meeting was being livestreamed via YouTube.

The Chair paid tribute to the way in which local government has responded to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The importance of social distancing and continuing to thoroughly wash hands was highlighted by the Chair.

5. NECA GOVERNANCE UPDATE

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

Members considered the report which provided an update on the governance arrangements for the North East Combined Authority in regards the impact of Covid-19.

The report informed Members on the provisions of emergency legislation from the Government which enable local authorities and combined authorities to continue their vital work. It was noted that Members had agreed to postpone the Annual Meeting of NECA until such a time that all constituent authorities have held their own Annual Meetings. Members noted that current NECA appointments will roll over until next Annual Meeting is held.

RESOLVED That:

- i. the report be noted.

6. COVID-19 UPDATE

Submitted: Report of the Director of Public Health, Durham County Council (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an update on the effects of Covid-19 in the NECA area. Members received a presentation outlining key statistics, a timeline of developments, local outbreak plans and key issues during the pandemic to date.

The Chair noted that there had recently been a meeting of Chairs of Health and Wellbeing Boards coordinated by the LGA. It was noted that Local Authorities face similar challenges locally, but that the volunteer sector has responded well and will hopefully continue that good work going forwards.

The Chair thanked Amanda Healy for the report and presentation, as well as all those involved in the coordination and response.

RESOLVED That:

- i. the report and presentation be noted.

7. COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY UPDATE

Submitted: Report of Patrick Melia, Chief Executive of Sunderland City Council (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an update on the economic recovery taking place across the NECA and NELEP areas. Members received a presentation delivered by Vince Taylor on the analysis, plans and structures put in place and the implications for the NECA area.

The presentation covered the local impact so far, the structures for the coordination and response, announcements from Government and also the proposed recovery package being developed for the region.

The Chair noted the positive way in which the region has come together to respond to the crisis. It was noted that the NECA region and local authorities should have 'shovel-ready' schemes ready in case of any government underspend where money could be allocated. Concern over the potential for new youth unemployment was noted, including access to skills training and good quality jobs.

The Chair and Members thanked Vince Taylor and Patrick Melia for the report and presentation, as well as the other Officers involved in the work.

RESOLVED That:

- i. the report and presentation be noted.

8. BUDGET PROCESS AND TIMETABLE 2021/22

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

Members considered the report which set out the process and timetable for the preparation, consultation and approval of the 2021/22 budget and indicative three-year medium-term financial strategy for NECA.

Members noted that Appendix 1 contained all dates for the Budget Timetable for 2020/21.

The Chair thanked John Hewitt for the report.

RESOLVED That:

- i. the report and timetable be noted.

9. 2019/20 OUTTURN AND UPDATE ON 2020/21 FORECAST

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

Members considered the report which provided an update on the 2019/20 outturn for the NECA Corporate budget and an update on the forecast for 2020/21, based on the position to the end of June 2020.

Members noted that the 2019/20 outturn and 2020/21 forecast are in a positive position with no problems anticipated. It was noted that Appendix 1 of the report contained the

2019/20 Outturn and Update on 2020/21 Forecast for Transport Budgets which was presented to the Joint Transport Committee on 14 July 2020.

The Chair thanked John Hewitt for the report.

RESOLVED That:

- i. the report be noted.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 14 September 2020 at 2.00pm.

Leadership Board

Agenda Item 5

Date: 14 September 2020

Subject: Governance Arrangements

Report of: Deputy Monitoring Officer of the North East Combined Authority

Report to follow