

North East Joint Transport Committee

APPROVED MINUTES

19 March 2019

Meeting held Committee Room, Gateshead Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH

Present:

Councillor: M Gannon (Chair)

Councillors: N Forbes, C Marshall, G Miller, C Johnson, W Daley and M Walsh

32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mayor Redfern, Councillor Jackson and Helen Golightly.

33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

34 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

35 REGIONAL TRANSPORT UPDATE

Submitted: Report of the Managing Director, Transport North East (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

The report updated the Joint Transport Committee (JTC) on recent developments in transport affecting the LA7 area and included information regarding the adoption of the Strategic Transport Plan and Investment Programme for the North by Transport for the North (TfN); and, the re-launch of the Strategic Economic Plan and developments in the rail industry

RESOLVED – That the Joint Transport Committee noted the contents of the report.

36 **TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND UPDATE**

Submitted: Report of the Managing Director, Transport North East (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

The report updated the Committee on progress made to draw down central Government funding for sustainable and public transport measures from the Department for Transport's (DfT) Transforming Cities Fund. It also provided an update on the submitted Tranche 1 bid for capital schemes that could start during the remainder of 2018/19, and the Tranche 2 and Future Mobility Zone bids that would be submitted later this year for schemes that start between 2019/20 and 2022/23.

Members were verbally informed, that since the publication of the report, the region had secured £10 million from Tranche 1 of the Transforming Cities Fund which would be used to deliver a total of the five packages outlined; this region had also secured more Tranche 1 funding than any other region and the attention of the Regional Transport Team would now turn to preparations for tranche 2 and sift schemes that had been put forward by local authorities.

As additional information, the Chief Finance Officer advised that the DfT had asked for confirmation on how the £10 million would be deployed in more detail. A paper would be produced setting that out which would allow the grant to be issued before the end of the financial year. The £10 million would also be included in the capital programme for the next two years.

RESOLVED – That the Joint Transport Committee agreed to:

- a) note the progress made on preparing a Tranche 2 bid, and the verbal update provided on the funding decision for the Tranche 1 bid; and
- b) endorse the methodology for sifting and prioritising potential transport schemes that could form part of the North East's TCF Tranche 2 programme, as set out in Appendix 1.

37 **LIGHT RAIL (AND OTHER RAPID TRANSIT SOLUTIONS) - RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT CALL FOR EVIDENCE**

Submitted: Report of the Managing Director, Transport North East (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

The report described the purpose and content of the Call for Evidence and summarised the proposed Joint Transport Committee response to the questions asked. The Joint Transport Committee was asked to agree the content of the draft response and the submission of it to the DfT.

RESOLVED – That the Joint Transport Committee agreed the contents of the draft response as appended to the report and the submission of it to the DfT.

38 TAXI OLEV GRANT AND GUL UPDATE

Submitted: Report of the Managing Director, Transport North East (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

The report updated the Joint Transport Committee on the Go Ultra Low (GUL) Programme which the North East was currently delivering, plus the welcome announcement that the region had been successful in securing £500k of grant funding from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure specifically for the taxi trade.

The GUL project, jointly funded through OLEV and European Regional Development Funding (ERDF), was progressing well. The construction of one of the UK's first Electric Vehicle (EV) 'filling stations', funded through the GUL project, was due to complete in March. In addition, EV rapid hubs would be delivered in strategic locations around the region and were due to be installed spring 2019.

RESOLVED – That the Joint Transport Committee noted the contents of this report.

39 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT

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

The report provided the Joint Transport Committee with an update on the 2018/19 Transport Capital Programme. The latest approved programme for the year was £65.033m, with expenditure to the year end forecast to be £61.879m due to slippage on some Local Growth Fund transport schemes, rephasing of works included in the Metro Asset Renewal Plan, and some slippage on the Tyne Pedestrian and Cycle Tunnels refurbishment.

The Chief Finance Officer added that, with the successful announcement regarding the Transforming Cities bid, there would be some additional expenditure in the current year.

RESOLVED – That the Joint Transport Committee noted the contents of the report.

40 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

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

The report provided the Joint Transport Committee with an update on the 2018/19 revenue budget, at the end of the third quarter.

As the transport levies and revenue grants were fixed for the year there was minimal change in the Committee's revenue budget itself. Net expenditure reported against the levy funded budget was forecast to break even, following the redirection of a projected underspend to help fund the costs of the Transforming Cities bid.

Explanations for significant variances were set out in the report. These surpluses against the revenue grant funding from NECA would be retained by the respective delivery body at the year end and would be taken into account in funding decisions for future years.

RESOLVED – That the Joint Transport Committee noted the position at the end of the third quarter and the forecast outturn for the 2018/19 financial year.

41 **EAST COAST MAIN LINE UPDATE**

Submitted: report of the Managing Director, Transport North East (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

The East Coast Main Line (ECML) was the transport artery connecting the North East to other Northern Powerhouse cities, Scotland, London, the Midlands and beyond. In 2033 it would become the link to HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail, yet in its current condition it lacked the resilience, capacity and line speeds necessary to meet existing requirements let alone those of the future.

Preparation needed to commence now to deliver the future services described in this report as a consequence of the lead times involved in major rail infrastructure projects. All the region's stakeholders needed to be active and vocal in making the case to government for a plan for major investment in the line as a matter of urgency, and should speak as one united voice to deliver a clear message.

The report set out what was being done to promote investment and the opportunities to do more in terms of recent developments and next steps for each activity that formed part of the campaign.

Councillors Johnson, Gannon, Forbes and Daley stressed the necessity for vital substantial investment in the rail infrastructure in the north east region.

RESOLVED – That the Joint Transport Committee noted the progress made and commented on the present and future activities described in this report.

42 **AIR QUALITY UPDATE**

Submitted: Report of the Managing Director, Transport North East (previously submitted and copy attached to the official minutes).

The purpose of this report was to update the Joint Transport Committee on the latest position with respect to air quality. The government plan devolved delivery of improvements to local authorities and two detailed packages which identified measures to deliver improvements were currently out to consultation until 29 May 2019.

RESOLVED – That the Joint Transport Committee noted the contents of the report, detailing the latest position in respect of air quality and the legal direction that three of the constituent local authorities were subject to.

43 **FUNDING FORMULA CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

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

The report informed the Joint Transport Committee of the response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) consultation on the review of local authorities' relative needs and resources. This was a significant issue for this area as there was a huge gap between grant funding and expenditure for concessionary travel. Formulating a response was delegated to the Chair in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Managing Director, North East Transport.

The outcome of the response was awaited, and further reports would be brought to the Joint Transport Committee and the Tyne and Wear Sub Committee during the course of the year.

RESOLVED – That the North East Joint Transport Committee noted the report and the response to the consultation.

44 **APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR THE JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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

The report sought agreement to the appointment of the Independent Chair and Vice Chair for the Joint Transport Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

The report also asked members to delegate the approval of appointments to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Transport Audit Committee to the Chair of the Joint Transport Committee, acting on the recommendation of the recruitment panel, following the completion of the current recruitment process, due to the amount of time until the next scheduled meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Joint Transport Committee:

- i. Appointed:
 - a. David Taylor-Gooby to be the Independent Chair of the Joint Transport Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee with immediate effect.
 - b. Andrew Clark to be the Independent Vice Chair of the Joint Transport Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee with immediate effect.
- ii. Delegated the approval of appointments to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Transport Committee Audit Committee to the Chair of the Joint Transport Committee on the recommendation of the appointment panel.

45 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

2:00pm on 18 June 2019 at Town Hall, Westoe Road, South Shields, NE33 2RL