

North East Combined Authority, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 15 October 2014 at 3:00pm

Meeting to be held: Sunderland Civic Centre

www.northeastca.gov.uk

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 previous meeting held on 9 September 2014	1 - 4
4. 2015/16 Budget Process and Timetable	
Members are requested to note the intention to circulate the above report on a supplemental agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985	
5. Review of CA arrangements and Good Practice	5 - 18
6. Forward Plan & Work Programme	19 - 30
7. Dates and time of next meeting	
2:00pm Wednesday 9 December 2014 at Newcastle Civic Centre - Committee meeting and Transport briefing	

Contact Officer: Brenda Joyce Tel: 0191 2116144 E-mail: Brenda.joyce@newcastle.gov.uk

To: All Members

This page is intentionally left blank

North East Combined Authority, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9 September 2014

(2.00 - 3.00pm)

Meeting held Council Chamber, Gateshead Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead

Present:

Councillors: Wright (Chair), Armstrong, Eagle, Glindon, A Lower, Maxwell, Meling, Pearson, Snowdon, Stradling and Tyler

15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Daley, Dillon and Graham.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 30 JULY 2014

The minutes of the last meeting held on 30 July were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising

Minute No 11 – Work Programme – members commented that although the Overview and Scrutiny Committee understood that it could not oblige lead members to attend, it should be emphasised that it was important for the committee to meet with those responsible for the themes and that they should attend wherever possible.

Committee was informed that Councillor Davey was unable attend this meeting but the Head of Policy and Research from Northumberland County Council, Janice Rose, was in attendance to lead on the briefing session (following the meeting).

18 THE APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY

Submitted: Report of the Monitoring Officer regarding the Appointment of Substitute Members to the Committees, Joint Committee and Sub-Committees of the Combined Authority (previously circulated and copy attached to official minutes).

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report which provided information to enable the Committee to consider whether there was a need for substitute members to the Committees. Consideration of the report would also enable appropriate recommendations to be submitted to the Leadership Board when considering future changes to the constitution of the NECA.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the approach taken so far with regard to the Combined Authority was that substitute members had not been identified for subcommittees in accordance with the view taken that the Authority should be streamlined and efficient; at the moment only the Leadership Board had appointed substitutes as required by the Order creating the Authority. The introduction of substitutes would require changes to the Constitution which would require a decision by the Leadership Board. Should such changes be sought by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a report could be submitted to the Leadership Board explaining why the Committee considered substitutes to be necessary when the constitution was reviewed in October/November.

Members had briefly considered this at the last meeting and went on to have a detailed discussion. Member comments and suggestions with regard to possible substitutes were made as follows:-

- Although one member had not been present at the last meeting, he stressed that it was vitally important the Combined Authority had substitutes, especially considering all the other meetings he attended had substitute members.
- It was considered that although substitutes would be favourable, it could be useful to see how the committee worked going forward. This would provide for further consideration of what was going to be scrutinised and build up trust whilst retaining the current structure.
- It was pointed out that this was only the second meeting of the committee and that it would be prudent to leave it as it was established; the issue could be readdressed later if there were problems going forward rather than altering the constitution now.
- The quorum for the committee was tight at 10:14 and this could be an issue in the future. It was proposed that each local authority had only one substitute member and that this should be written into the constitution now – there was no requirement for 14 substitutes.
- As the committee would have a complex agenda it was suggested that Overview and Scrutiny may not be suitable for substitutes. Appointed members were responsible for more than making up the voting numbers.
- Another member was in favour of substitutes and liked the idea of one per authority. Substitutes could be briefed and up to date at short notice.
- Nominated substitutes were considered to be very helpful for continuity reasons.
- The Chair commented that on major decisions a vote could be required and that the original constitution may not have fully considered the substitute issue.

It was proposed and seconded that the issue of committee substitutes should not be pursued at this time but should be kept under review

An alternative proposal was made that steps were taken to go ahead with one substitute per authority however this was not seconded and therefore did not proceed further.

Following a vote, the proposal was carried on a majority and it was:-

RESOLVED – That:-

- No action be taken in relation to seeking substitutes and putting an amendment to the Leadership Board in the short term; and
- This should be revisited in the future during the annual review of the constitution.

19 **DEVELOPING THE WORK PROGRAMME**

Submitted: Report of Scrutiny Officer to provide members with the opportunity to implement a work programme for the Scrutiny Committee for 2014/15 (previously circulated and copy attached to official minutes).

The work programme would allow the committee to have an overview of all performance, decision-taking and developments within the NECA, as well as being focused and flexible to allow for new issues emerging through the year.

The NECA Scrutiny Committee would obtain work programme items from the following sources:

1. Topics submitted by Members (as below):-
 - Transport
 - Employment and Transport
 - Rationalisation of ticketing arrangements on public transport
 - Taxi harmonisation
 - Pothole project: making our roads better
 - Best practice
2. The Budget and Policy Framework
3. The Forward Plan
4. The Three Thematic Leads

Briefing sessions would be held on each theme and each lead member would be invited to attend the relevant session.

Topics selected could be for a review or scrutiny and the former should support the NECA in meeting its strategic priorities. Final recommendations would be made with a view to improving services and influencing strategic decisions.

The current meeting schedule was set out in the report, although it was acknowledged that further meetings and evidence gathering sessions were likely to be necessary. Accordingly, and because of the budget timeline, a further meeting of the Committee would now be held at 2:00pm on Wednesday 15 October, to meet the requirements of the consultation to feed back to the Leadership Board.

It was recommended that the Scrutiny Committee consider the proposed topics to be included in the work programme for 2014/15 and endorse the programme, subject to new and emerging issues arising throughout the year.

Members discussed possible topics for inclusion in the work programme and comment as follow:-

- That the pothole project could benefit all seven local authorities and it was possible that there could be financial advantages by working together.

Moving on to the proposed topic of taxi harmonisation:-

- This was a topic that should be looked at strategically with a view to coming up with a sub-regional approach to harmonisation of procedures and building on the experience of Durham.
- Councillor Lott (Chair of the Tyne and Wear Sub-committee) had proposed the harmonisation of procedures as a topic for the Work Programme..
- It was understood that the government was going to rationalise the system and caution was needed to ensure all work was aligned.
- It was suggested that the Leadership Board should push for a national scheme as there were strict limitations to what could be done locally.
- There were conflicting views about waiting until the new legislation came out, as it was argued that harmonisation could give more control and have a significant impact on the public.
- Some members considered that that the topic areas of taxi harmonisation and the pothole project would be better explored after the Transport Briefing Session in December.
- It was also considered that subjects should not be ignored because they were too big or contentious.

The Scrutiny Officer was asked about advantages of undertaking a harmonisation review. She suggested that it would be useful to see what legislation came forward and said that that often complex topic areas were referred to scrutiny because of their nature and also that the topic not may fulfil the transport brief of the Leadership Board.

RESOLVED – That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorse the proposed topics to be included in the work programme for 2014/15 in principle, subject to new and emerging issues arising throughout the year.

Councillor Lower asked that the minutes reflect that she was against this decision.

20

DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

2:00pm, Wednesday 15 October 2014 - Sunderland Civic Centre

2:00pm, Tuesday 9 December 2014 – Newcastle Civic Centre

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 15th October 2014

SUBJECT: Review of combined authority arrangements and good practice

REPORT OF: Monitoring Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to consider the arrangements for sub-regional decision making in other areas in order to explore good practice and to explore scrutiny responses to these different ways of decision-making.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee considers the examples in the report in the context of a review of good practice arrangements.

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1 Background Information

- 1.1 At the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9th September 2014, members agreed to review best practice models for sub-regional arrangements and to review the setting up of a Combined Authority.
- 1.2 The creation of formal structures to bring together multiple local authorities in joint arrangements is not new. However, powers granted in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 for the creation of “combined authorities” for the first time permitted authorities to come together to make joint decisions on a range of different strategic matters. Initially these powers were limited to two “pilot” city regions, Manchester and Leeds, but they were expanded in the Localism Act (Section 13).
- 1.3 The combined authorities that have been established in addition to the NECA in April 2014 are Sheffield City Region, Liverpool City Region, and West Yorkshire. It is also proposed that a combined authority should be formed around Birmingham. The scale and nature of such arrangements will be such that the formalising of arrangements aims to secure “economies of scale” through working together. On behalf of the NECA, enquiries will be made with each of the newly established combined authorities to share experiences of setting up formal arrangements.
- 1.4 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) was established in April 2011. This began as a variety of partnership boards and shared agencies, some of which were under the aegis of Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA). These informal multi-council arrangements continue to exist in addition to the formal arrangements. The arrangement for GMCA is set out in more detail in Section 2 of this report.
- 1.5 In London, less formal joined-up working between authorities has been developed through the tri-borough arrangements incorporating Hammersmith and Fulham, Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea. In the latter example, an iterative process will see certain services (for example, libraries) run by a single authority on behalf of the other two. These arrangements have recently been expanded to incorporate “back office” services.
- 1.6 Currently, most multi-council arrangements happen in neighbouring shire districts, between districts and a county, or in urban areas. For these less structured multi-council arrangements, the scrutiny process is less well defined. There is, for example, no formal local scrutiny process for the tri-borough arrangements in London, and where multi-council agreements exist elsewhere, scrutiny tends to happen on an authority-by-authority basis.
- 1.7 Economic development has arguably been the most prominent area where sub-regional work has been developing over the last few years. Strategic

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

economic development policy was entirely regional until 2010 (Local authorities retained responsibility for economic development within their area, but such policies had to be developed in line with regional plans), when the abolition of Regional Development Agencies and the creation of new, smaller Local Enterprise Partnerships saw this policy field being recast as the responsibility of local authorities and local business, working together (as set out in the Local Growth” White Paper).

- 1.8 To best reflect local circumstances, many areas recognised a need to introduce a scrutiny mechanism scrutiny of Strategic Economic Plan.. A view was taken by many that the introduction of light touch joint overview and scrutiny arrangements could provide for an appropriate level of public accountability.
- 1.9 For example, Greater Birmingham and Solihull have recently established a Joint Scrutiny Committee to review and scrutinise the decisions made and actions taken in the context of the Economic Plan.

2. Overview of established sub-regional arrangements

- 2.1 The most prominent example of combined authority working is in Greater Manchester, where the Greater Manchester Combined Authority has been in existence since April 2011. The GMCA covers the area of the core AGMA authorities and directs strategy in several areas through “commissions” on public health, environment, public protection and planning and housing. There is also a commission on “improvement and efficiency”. The Greater Manchester LEP and the GMCA are coterminous, and work closely together – for example, funding business development projects as part of the city’s investment strategy. GMCA also has some responsibility for transport through the independent Transport for Greater Manchester.
- 2.2 The GMCA has a formal joint scrutiny committee to hold its decisions to account. This “scrutiny pool” operates under a protocol that defines how it will scrutinise GMCA. It is arguably the most developed structure for sub-regional scrutiny in England. It is supported by a dedicated officer and carries out scrutiny reviews into specific strategic subjects.
- 2.3 Appendix 1 to this report sets out details of the most recent annual review of the work of the AGMA/GMCA scrutiny committee, including its current annual work programme. It can be noted that there are similarities to the NECA Scrutiny Committee work programme including briefing sessions on thematic lead areas, monitoring of priority topics and alignment to the Forward Plan.

3. Next Steps

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3.1 The Scrutiny Committee is able to consider the evidence of arrangements elsewhere within the context of a review of good practice working. This will inform the work of the NECA and assist with developing a structure and process which is fit for purpose and achieves the best possible outcomes.

4. Potential Impact on Objectives

4.1 Review of good practice arrangements elsewhere will contribute towards the development and implementation of the structure and process of the NECA, Nexus and NELEP.

5. Finance and Other Resources

5.1 No financial or other resource implications are identified at this stage. The financial impact of any proposals or recommendations should be taken into account and any significant implications should be reflected in any considerations and comments made by the Scrutiny Committee.

6. Legal

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

7. Other Considerations

7.1 Consultation/Community Engagement

Not applicable

7.2 Human Rights

There are no specific human rights implications arising from this report.

7.3 Equalities and Diversity

Not applicable

7.4 Risk Management

Not applicable

7.5 Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

7.6 Environment and Sustainability

Not applicable

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

8. Background Documents

8.1 None

9. Links to the Local Transport Plans

9.1 None

10. Appendices

10.1 None

11. Contact Officers

11.1 Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer, karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk

12. Sign off

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

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Appendix 1

1. GMCA Scrutiny

- 1.1 The joint Scrutiny Committee was originally established in 2008 following changes to the constitution of the AGMA. Its main remit was to ensure that there was a democratic accountability structure to support or challenge the decisions made for the sub-region.
- 1.2 The GMCA was established in April 2011 and the scrutiny function was adapted to reflect the requirements of the new governance structure. The significant roles for the Scrutiny Committee are:
 - Monitoring of strategic decisions and making recommendations for improvement and/or change;
 - Investigating matters of strategic importance;
 - Reviewing budgets for sub regional functions;
 - Reviewing work programmes on an annual basis;
 - Reviewing the performance of the GMCA against the objectives within the Strategy;
 - Facilitating the exchange of information about the work of GMCA and sharing information and outcomes from reviews;
 - Monitoring the delivery of transport services against the Local Transport Plan.

2. Current operational arrangements

- 2.1 The 'Pool', as it is known, meets as a Committee monthly and is made up of 30 elected members (3 from each of the AGMA Authorities) representing both sexes and reflecting local political balance. It is organised into two thematic panels (it should be noted these have not met during the last municipal year and the arrangement has been for regular committee-style meetings).
- 2.2 The work programme is agreed and refreshed by the members on a monthly basis, and is also directed by the Greater Manchester Strategy and GMCA/AGMA Forward Plan. (See current work programme at end of report).
- 2.3 The Committee meets monthly, on the second Friday of each month to ensure it is aligned with the AGMA cycle.

3. Key pieces of work from AGMA scrutiny 2011/12

3.1 Greater Manchester Combined Authority

During the previous year all AGMA members were involved in the shaping of processes and establishment of the Combined Authority. The governance framework will continue to evolve as the GMCA moves forward.

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3.2 GMCA Budget Review

Following a large scale internal review of the GMCA budget the Scrutiny Committee was asked to scrutinise the findings. This helped them to gain a better understanding of the priorities and efficiency targets for the Combined Authority. The Committee agreed that the TfGM budget should be scrutinised by the TfGMC due to their regular involvement with the budget and transport priorities. However, the Committee remains committed to ensuring the remaining sub-regional budgets are scrutinised effectively.

3.3 Performance management of GMCA

Since 2010 scrutiny members have been involved in the development of a performance monitoring framework for the Greater Manchester Strategy and through an assessment of performance against this framework have been able to review the achievements linked to strategic priority indicators.

Scrutiny members receive six monthly updates on each of the strategic priorities and performance data, but have recognised that as the GMS has evolved the data has expanded so much that a new approach for performance management needs to be agreed for next year. This new approach will be developed in line with the refreshed GMS.

3.4 Key Government Initiatives - Community Budgets and City Deal

Scrutiny members received information on the emerging community budget and have had the opportunity to scrutinise Greater Manchester's applications for becoming a Whole Place Community Budget pilot.

They also received reports on the proposals within the Government's 'deal for cities' offer and Greater Manchester's submission for a tailored city deal. As the project moves forward scrutiny members will further scrutinise the implementation plan and performance of some of the key initiatives within the Greater Manchester Strategy.

3.5 Responding to local and regional consultations

Scrutiny Members have been involved in a number of local and regional consultations, allowing members at a sub-regional level to respond on behalf of the residents of Greater Manchester. This includes response to local evaluation of Future Jobs Fund having reviewed findings of national evaluation.

Members have also provided scrutiny on governance changes for partner organisations such as the PCT Locality Management Arrangements during the transition to Clinical Commissioning Groups, and contributed to large scale policy consultation such as GM's Alcohol Strategy.

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3.6 Pre-policy scrutiny supporting the GMCA

At regular intervals delivery bodies of the GMCA bring their key policies to the AGMA Scrutiny Committee for their input at a pre-decision stage. This allows the opportunity to comment, amend or query any element of the policy before it is implemented. There has been scrutiny of the process by which a review of the Section 48 AGMA Grants scheme was planned to ensure transparency and fairness. Recommendations were then made to the Executive Board, with the offer of further scrutiny at a later stage in the process.

3.7 Awareness raising of sub regional policy development

Many reports that are brought to AGMA Scrutiny help raise the members' awareness of good practice which is being undertaken at a sub-regional level for example Future Jobs Fund and Community Budgets. Members are then able to share their knowledge with colleagues at a local level, often extracting specifics about their own area and helping to increase the awareness of sub-regional projects across the conurbation. This has also contributed to the shaping of local scrutiny work programmes, where members of the AGMA Scrutiny Pool have selected areas to review at a local level.

3.8 Introduction to new areas of work – Transport for Greater Manchester Committee (TfGMC) and Manchester Family

Following changes to the GMCA and AGMA in April 2011, the remit of the Scrutiny Committee was expanded to include a number of other areas where the Pool could offer challenge and critique.

Over the past 12 months scrutiny members have been developing their knowledge of associate bodies through informal briefings and short scrutiny reviews and have specifically looked at TfGMC and Manchester Family – including New Economy, Marketing Manchester, MIDAS and Manchester Solutions.

3.9 Reviews of matters of strategic importance

Scrutiny is a member-led process and within their remit they are able to undertake reviews which they feel are of strategic importance to the people of Greater Manchester and not just one particular local authority. These reviews are often selected following a previous policy review or from the GMS/GMCA Forward Plan priorities.

This year the Committee has undertaken thematic reviews in the following areas –

- The current housing offer across Greater Manchester
- Support offered to businesses across the sub-region following riots
- The mechanisms by which AGMA supports the voluntary sector

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- The eligibility criteria for concessionary travel across GM.

3.10 Improving the knowledge of members through informal briefings

Due to the level of information in some pieces of scrutiny, briefing sessions have been held to aid members in their scrutiny role. This has been particularly successful for the Greater Manchester Strategy and Local Transport Plan which contain high level strategic information that members are not regularly dealing with.

3.11 Reviewing the work of the AGMA Commissions

Scrutiny Members receive updates from each of the AGMA Commissions to enable them to keep up to date with the work they are undertaking across Greater Manchester. This has supported the Commissions to produce evidence for their own work programmes and report on their delivery. Scrutiny members have requested specific areas for further review such as the ICT workstream to enable members to further understand its objectives and projected outcomes.

4. Members' experience of AGMA Scrutiny

GMIST (Greater Manchester Integrated Support Team) are continually trying to improve the service and support delivered to the Scrutiny Committee, and every year undertakes an evaluation to gain feedback from scrutiny members.

Highlights from the survey included –

- 89% felt the Scrutiny Committee had been successful in undertaking its functions.
- 83% (81% in 2010/11) felt they were able to contribute to the but only 54% felt they were able to shape the work programme (same as 2010/11).
- The most enjoyable pieces of scrutiny were rated as –
 - Reviewing the Metrolink Fleet Renewal Strategy (30%)
 - Being involved in the Section 48 AGMA Grants review (30%)
 - Opportunity to externally scrutinise the GMP response to Manchester riots (20%)
 - Other – including Planning and Housing, Alcohol misuse (20%)
- 78% felt that scrutiny had some strong outcomes.
- 78% felt that scrutiny had added value to the work of the GMCA (88% in 2010/11).
- The most significant frustrations from scrutiny members were –

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Not enough capacity to undertake in-depth reviews in a two hour meeting;
 - That some reports are brought to scrutiny after the key decisions have been made and therefore have less influence than members would like;
 - Concern that some members are not attending on a regular basis;
 - More opportunities to influence the work of AGMA at a pre-policy stage.
- 89% felt they had developed a greater understanding of the work of GMCA through their role in scrutiny (same as 2010/11)
 - Some of the ideas for the coming year of AGMA Scrutiny included –
 - More opportunities for pre-policy scrutiny
 - A stronger induction programme
 - Visits to projects being scrutinised as sometimes presentations can be meaningless
 - More time to study agendas with hardcopies distributed as early as possible
 - Mandatory 11am briefing/training sessions
 - Smaller panel groups for more detailed scrutiny
 - Mentors for new members of scrutiny

5. Developing the scrutiny function for GMCA / AGMA

Areas for improvement put forward by members and colleagues to improve the effectiveness of the scrutiny function include:

- 5.1 Refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy and performance monitoring role of scrutiny
- a) To ensure prioritising of the right policy interventions the GMS is in the process of being refreshed and will form the cornerstone for the GMCA and its associated bodies.
 - b) In order for scrutiny to be able to add value to the work undertaken by the GMCA it is imperative that its focus is on the GMS and that it works to highlight areas for improvement, concern, or action through regular monitoring of the thematic delivery plans and overall performance data.
 - c) Scrutiny will play a key role in the consultation process to ensure that members help to shape its objectives and are fully aware of their focus when undertaking their sub-regional scrutiny role.
 - d) The work programme will then be shaped around six-monthly performance reviews and thematic delivery plan reviews at six-monthly intervals.
- 5.2 The GMCA / AGMA Scrutiny Pool and its wider remit

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- e) After just one year under the GMCA arrangements scrutiny still requires further opportunities to develop, specifically in relation to the additional elements to their remit which now includes;
- Transport
 - Economy
 - Regeneration
 - Health
 - Environment
 - Planning and Housing
 - Improvement and Efficiency
 - Public Protection
 - Governance
- f) Scrutiny has begun to examine the strategic objectives and remit of partner organisations but need to further understand how each contribute to the effectiveness of the GMCA and who is accountable for the delivery of each priority in order to scrutinise their effectiveness.

5.3 Opportunity to scrutinise policies prior to their implementation

- g) Pre-policy scrutiny is one of the greatest influences that scrutiny members can have to help shape services which are provided to residents. Members have identified that this is the area where their scrutiny recommendations can be made to add significant value to the work undertaken by officers. The Operating Agreement for the GMCA specifies that the Scrutiny Committee have the remit for –

“2.2.3 reviewing and commenting upon the following periodic reports to the Executive Board in advance of the submission for approval to the Executive Board; and

- i) any budgets for sub regional functions which are the responsibility of the Executive Board; and*
 - ii) annual refreshes of AGMA Commission Work Programmes as detailed in clause 8.4 of the AGMA Operating Agreement and Constitution”*
- h) In these areas they will be able to provide effective scrutiny that will add value to the work of the GMCA. In the same way, members highlighted their desire for the opportunity to be involved at a pre-policy stage wherever possible to have influence over policy development.

5.4 Organisation of the ‘Pool’ and ability to undertake detailed pieces of scrutiny

- i) There have been no formal panels of the AGMA ‘Scrutiny Pool’ as the majority of agenda items are relevant and interesting for all members. However, capacity is available for panel meetings or small task/finish committees should the need arise.

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- j) Feedback from the members' survey highlighted that they were keen to undertake more detailed scrutiny reviews into areas of particular strategic importance. In order to accommodate this, there is the capacity to call for small task and finish style committees to review specific topics/policies as required.

5.5 The changing role of health and its effect on scrutiny at a sub-regional level

- k) The GMCA / AGMA Scrutiny Committee has the remit to scrutinise strategic health issues at a Greater Manchester level, however, in the past year there has been some confusion as to how to ensure they are not duplicating the work of the Greater Manchester Health Scrutiny Panel. This panel is specifically focused on scrutinising the NHS and partners with regards to major changes to acute healthcare services across GM.
- l) The GMIST team will now be managing both the GM Health Scrutiny Panel and AGMA Scrutiny Committee and therefore will endeavour to ensure their work programmes complement one another. Where appropriate GM NHS will be asked to brief members as to how NHS changes will affect their scrutiny role.

5.6 Improved Induction Programme

- m) A combined induction session will be held for all members of AGMA to illustrate the wider picture of the GMCA and how their role supports the sub-regional function. Following this there will be a separate session for AGMA Scrutiny members to give them further insight into their role.
- n) Members have also suggested that a 'buddy scheme' would be useful for new scrutiny members.

5.7 Improving members knowledge

- o) Many members have found the informal briefing sessions really useful in giving them more knowledge to support their scrutiny role. It has been particularly successful with large strategic reviews, and members feel these sessions should be mandatory and more regular in order to ensure all members have the required level of knowledge before they are asked to scrutinise policy development.
- p) Often scrutiny reviews are so strategic it can be difficult for members to visualise what impact to service delivery the report recommendations will have. It has been requested that where it would be beneficial members could attend site visits to see the projects as they are delivered as this will help them to see the value their input can have.

5.8 Summary of Development Areas for 2014/15

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Stronger links between the Greater Manchester Strategy and scrutiny work programme;
- Develop their understanding of the organisations supporting the GMCA through scrutiny of the GMS delivery plans to which they are accountable;
- Pre-policy scrutiny on items of strategic importance;
- Retain the option for meeting in smaller task & finish groups should there be a requirement;
- Arrange a wider induction session for all members of AGMA bodies, which will also offer a specific induction to scrutiny members;
- Consider the benefit of more regular informal briefing sessions to build up knowledge and aid members with their scrutiny function and the potential for 'site visits' as required.

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

GMCA / AGMA Scrutiny Pool Work Programme 2014-15

Items in bold are confirmed

Date	Items	Lead Officer
13 June 2014	AGM	
	Transport update	Simon Warburton
	Public Service Reform Update	Sean Harriss
	Growth & Reform Plan	Howard Bernstein
11 July	School Places	Mark Carriline/John Edwards
	Graphene/Advance Materials	Simon Nokes/University
	Low Carbon Hub Work Programme	Mark Atherton
The will be no meeting in August 2014		
12 September	Planning & Housing Update	Garreth Bruff
	Public Service Reform Update – Complex Dependency	Sean Harriss / Carolyn Wilkins
	Greater Manchester Growth Company - Including Inward Investment	Mark Hughes
10 October - Airport venue	Worklessness and Skills	James Farr
	Manchester Airport Enterprise Zone Improvement and Efficiency update	Eddie Smith - MCC
		Theresa Grant
14 November	GM Growth Company - Marketing	Mark Hughes
	Welfare Reform	James Farr
	Broadband	Ian Birleson
12 December	Public Service Reform Update – Health	Sean Harriss / Steven Pleasant
	Transport update - 6 month update	Simon Warburton
2015		
16 January	Low Carbon Hub Work Programme	Mark Atherton
	GM Growth Company - Growth Hub	Mark Hughes
13 February	Youth Unemployment	James Farr
	GMCA Budget	Richard Paver
13 March	Public Service Reform Update – Early Years	Sean Harriss/Donna Hall
	Infrastructure to support growth	Simon Nokes/Anne Morgan
17 April	GM Growth Company - Business Plan	Mark Hughes
	Land Supply	Anne Morgan
	GM Investment	Eamonn Boylan
The will be no meeting in May 2015		

Updated 2.7.14 kb

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 15th October 2014

SUBJECT: FORWARD PLAN & SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT OF: MONITORING OFFICER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Forward Plan for the current 28 day period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee considers the Forward Plan in relation to the development of the Committee's Work Programme.

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. Background Information

- 1.1 The Forward Plan is a document which lists the decisions that the North East Combined Authority committees intend to take in the coming months. The Plan is updated on a fortnightly basis.
- 1.2 The Forward Plan 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.
- 1.3 Details of each decision are usually included on the Forward Plan 28 days before the report is considered and any decision is taken.

2. Role of Overview and Scrutiny

- 2.1 Reviewing and scrutinising the decisions made is one of the main functions of overview and scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the NELB, the TNEC, the TWSC and the decisions of the County Council of Durham and Northumberland County Council.
- 2.2 In doing so the Scrutiny Committee should determine whether Scrutiny can add value in relation to the decision being made.
- 2.3 To this end, the most recent version of the Forward Plan is included on the agenda of this Committee. The Forward Plan for the current 28 day period is attached marked Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The Scrutiny Committee's Annual Work Programme, as agreed at the Committee meeting held on 9th September 2014, is also attached as Appendix 2.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 The Forward Plan will allow the Scrutiny Committee to find out about major decisions that the Combined Authority is planning to take and provides the opportunity to comment on these decisions.
- 3.2 In considering the Forward Plan, Members are asked to consider those issues where the Scrutiny Committee could make a contribution which would add value.

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3.3 If the 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 way.

4. Potential Impact on Objectives

4.1 Review and scrutiny of decisions in the Forward Plan will contribute towards the development and implementation of the policy framework of the NECA, Nexus and NELEP as well as providing appropriate challenge to decisions taken.

5. Finance and Other Resources

5.1 No financial or other resource implications are identified at this stage. The financial impact of any proposals or recommendations should be taken into account and any significant implications should be reflected in any considerations and comments made by the Scrutiny Committee.

6. Legal

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

7. Other Considerations

7.1 Consultation/Community Engagement

Not applicable

7.2 Human Rights

There are no specific human rights implications arising from this report.

7.3 Equalities and Diversity

Not applicable

7.4 Risk Management

Not applicable

7.5 Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

7.6 Environment and Sustainability

Not applicable

North East Combined Authority

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

8. Background Documents

8.1 None

9. Links to the Local Transport Plans

9.1 None

10. Appendices

10.1 None

11. Contact Officers

11.1 Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer, karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk

12. Sign off

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

Appendix 1



Forward Plan of Decisions

Published on 3 October 2014

The Forward Plan for the North East Combined Authority (NECA) is prepared and published by the Monitoring Officer for the purpose of giving the 28 day notice of decisions that are planned to be taken by the NECA, its committees or a Chief Officer, which impact on the key areas of the NECA, namely Transport, Economic Development, Regeneration, Skills and Inclusion.

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.

Appendix 1

Reference number/ Date Published on the Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer
1/ 3 October 2014	21 October 2014	North East Leadership Board	<p>Mental Health and Employment Integration Trailblazer</p> <p>Endorsement of the initial submission to Government to ultimately secure the £1.7million allocation for 2015/16 as identified within the North East Growth Deal.</p>	Employability and Inclusion	Workshops have been held with appropriate representatives from the employability/inclusion and public health professionals within each of the local authorities and Job Centre Plus.	None	<p>Janice Rose, Economic and Inclusion Policy Manager, Northumberland County Council 01670 624747 janice.rose@northumberland.gov.uk</p> <p>All representations to be made by email to the Contact Officer by Thursday 9 October.</p>



Forward Plan of Decisions

Published on 22 September 2014

Page 25

The Forward Plan for the North East Combined Authority (NECA) is prepared and published by the Monitoring Officer for the purpose of giving the 28 day notice of decisions that are planned to be taken by the NECA, its committees or a Chief Officer, which impact on the key areas of the NECA, namely Transport, Economic Development, Regeneration, Skills and Inclusion.

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.

Reference number/ Date Published on the Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer Representations should be forwarded to the contact officer 7 working days before the meeting.
1/22 September 2014	21 October 2014	North East Leadership Board	<p>Consultation response – Northern Futures.</p> <p>Retrospective formal endorsement of the North East Combined Authority’s response to the Northern Futures consultation, to be submitted by the deadline of 17 October.</p>	All	The response has been informed by discussions with the Economic Directors, Chief Executives and Leaders and Elected Mayor.		<p>Caroline Winter Policy Manager, 7 North East Local Authorities 0191 211 5058 caroline.winter@newcastle.gov.uk</p>
2/22 September 2014	21 October 2014	North East Leadership Board	<p>North East Combined Authority Budget 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>To note the report for information and agree to a final budget report to be presented to the Authority for agreement in January 2015.</p>	Corporate issue	The budget for 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Strategy will be subject to consultation in advance of formal agreement in January 2015.	<p>NECA Report 16/09/14 2015/16 Budget Process and Timetable NECA Report 29/04/14 Report on the 2014/15 Budget for the Combined Authority</p>	<p>Paul Woods Chief Finance Officer paul.woods@northtyneside.gov.uk 07446936840</p>

Reference number/ Date Published on the Forward Plan	Date of Decision	Decision Maker	Topic	Thematic area	Consultees /Consultation Process	Background Documents	Contact Officer Representations should be forwarded to the contact officer 7 working days before the meeting.
3/22 September 2014	21 October 2014	North East Leadership Board	Improving Local Bus Services. The purpose of this report is to note and consider the content of a report setting out both a Quality Contracts Scheme and a Voluntary Partnership Agreement for the Tyne and Wear area, and to determine which option, if any, to progress.	Transport	The Quality Contracts Scheme has been subject to a formal statutory consultation.	Available at www.nexus.org/busstrategy	Mark Wilson 0191 2115679 mark.wilson@newcastle.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 2
Work Programme 2014/15

Date	Items	Lead Officer	Informal Briefings (lead members to be invited on thematic briefings)
9 th September	Developing the work programme	KB	Employability & Skills – Janice Rose, Northumberland CC
	Substitute Members	Viv Geary	How Scrutiny fits into the NECA
15 th October	Budget Report – process and timetable	Paul Woods	Economic Development & Regeneration – Vince Taylor, Sunderland
	Review - Best Practice / Setting up the CA – Overview of Sub-Regional decision making and scrutiny	KB	
	Forward Plan & Work Programme	KB	
9 th December	NECA Budget for 2015/16 – final proposals	Paul Woods	Transport
	ED & Regeneration topic		
	Forward Plan & Work Programme	KB	
10 th February	Strategic Economic Plan update		
	Transport topic (rationalisation of ticketing)		
	Forward Plan		

In addition to the schedule items, the following items will be included in the work programme.	
6 monthly updates on each of the 3 themes	
Integrated Transport	Existing initiatives; including how other countries have solved this problem; encourage more people to make more journeys by other means than by car; promote sustainable travel for everyone.
Transport related barriers to employment	Issues relating to employment and transport and students travelling across boundaries to all colleges and universities to ensure the enabling of full opportunities for future employment.
Taxi harmonisation	Consideration of opportunities for rationalisation of regulatory controls over the NECA area and new developments relating to the legal framework for taxis and private hire vehicles.
Potholes	Making our roads better - how to address long-lasting pothole repairs with a coordinated approach.
Growth Strategy	
Development of Local Transport Plan	

This page is intentionally left blank