

Cabinet

22 October 2019

(2.00 - 2.45 pm)

Meeting held: Committee Room, Northumberland County Council, Morpeth, NE61 2EF

Minutes

Present:

Chair: Councillor Mayor J Driscoll

Councillors W Daley, N Forbes, P Jackson, C Johnson, J McCarty and B Pickard

The Mayor opened the meeting, making reference to the current national political position and highlighted discussions that have taken place with the M9 Metro Mayors on levelling devolution powers to those of Manchester. A devolution framework had been proposed, against which combined authorities could draw down the powers and funding that they require. The Mayor indicated that he had written to the government on this and the M9 Metro Mayors would meet with the Chancellor of the Exchequer in November.

29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mayor Redfearn and from Mr A Hodgson.

30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

31 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 September 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

32 EMPLOYABILITY AND INCLUSION PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Submitted: Report of the Head of Inclusive Growth (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on the projects being progressed in the Employability and Inclusion Portfolio. The report was introduced by Cllr McCarty, the portfolio holder.

Members welcomed the progress that had been made and the opportunities that are being created to remove barriers that make it difficult for individuals to take up employment and training; and the positive impact this can have on an individual's standard of living, health and wellbeing.

Members also welcomed the targeting of the over 50 age group and the ability to commission intervention that is tailored to the local labour market.

RESOLVED – That

Cabinet approve:

- i. The Inclusive Economy Innovation Fund priorities for investment; and
- ii. The NTCA and DWP Framework Agreement.

Cabinet welcome:

- i. The Good Work Pledge;
- ii. The Employability and Skills Programme;
- iii. The Returnships Project; and
- iv. The Working Homes Project

33 ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET DEVOLUTION

Submitted: Report of the Head of Inclusive Growth (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on progress of devolving the Adult Education Budget and recommended the approval on the proposed approach and priorities for procurement. The report was introduced by Cllr McCarty, the Portfolio Holder for Employability and Inclusion.

Members noted the need to ensure stability in the sector and welcomed the progress that was being made, in particular the opportunity to move away from a one size fits all approach to one that delivers an adult skills offer that is linked to local skills needs.

The Mayor noted that the Good Work Pledge gave the opportunity to improve procurement using social value clauses.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet:

- i. Note the progress being made to devolve the AEB;
- ii. Agree the three Lots proposed for procurement as set out in section 1.14 of the report; and
- iii. Authorise the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Employability and Inclusion, to finalise the procurement documentation

and undertake the procurement exercise including the evaluation of bids and award of contracts.

34 **INVESTMENT FUND AND BREXIT UPDATE**

Submitted: Report of the Interim Director of Inclusive Growth (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Cabinet considered the report, which provided an update on grant fund programmes supporting economic growth and which recommended the establishment of Brexit task-force, agreement on key asks of government and for further development work to set up a Citizens Assembly.

Cllr Forbes, Portfolio Holder for Business Competitiveness introduced the report, discussing the impact of Brexit on the North East and the need to build long term economic resilience.

Cllr Pickard, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, discussed progress that had been made on the reported package of schemes to support businesses and promote inward investment.

Members welcomed the progress being made and the package of support available to support businesses in the context of the potential impact of Brexit.

The Mayor discussed the climate change emergency agreed by all constituent authorities and the need to make progress within a short timescale.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet:

- i. Note the launch of the North of Tyne Inward Investment Grant Fund and the progress within the North of Tyne Growth Fund and the North of Tyne Rural Growth Fund;
- ii. Agree to establish a NTCA Brexit task-force to consider any systemic or structural issues;
- iii. Agree the key asks of government as outlined in the report; and
- iv. Endorse further development work to set up a Citizens' Assembly which will consider action on climate change at a combined authority level.

35 **DRAFT STRATEGIC RISK & OPPORTUNITIES REGISTER**

Submitted: Report of the Risk Advisor to NTCA (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Cabinet considered the report which recommended the draft Strategic Risk and Opportunities Register to Cabinet for approval.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet:

- i. Approve the Strategic Risk and Opportunities Register; and
- ii. Note the continued monitoring of the Strategic Risk Register by Audit and Standards Committee.

36 2019-2020 Q2 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT

Submitted: Report of the Interim Chief Financial Officer (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on the forecast financial position of the Corporate and Investment Fund budgets and set out the potential position on reserves at the year end.

The Mayor advised members that the Public Works Loan Board had increased interest rates by 1%.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet:

- i. Note the forecast budget monitoring position for the authority;
- ii. Note the Treasury Management mid-year update position; and
- iii. Agree the appointment of the external auditor.

37 MAYOR'S AMBASSADORS FOR BUSINESS AND THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

Item withdrawn.

38 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 26 November 2019 at 2pm.