

North of Tyne Combined Authority, Cabinet

29 September 2020

(2.01 - 3.22 pm)

The meeting was held virtually and live streamed.

Minutes

Present:

Chair: Mayor J Driscoll

Councillors R Dodd, N Forbes (part of meeting), J McCarty, B Pickard, G Sanderson, Mayor N Redfearn and Ms L Winskell

Observer: Mr R Fry, Mayoral Ambassador for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector

92 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

93 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

94 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 July 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

95 **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT - DEVOLUTION, NEXT STEPS**

The Mayor, on behalf of Cabinet, welcomed to the meeting Ms Lucy Winskell, the newly appointed Chair of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership. The Mayor commented on the close relationship between businesses in the area and the Combined Authority, which was essential for maintaining and creating a strong economy, including inclusive and green economy.

The Mayor, on behalf of Cabinet, congratulated Councillors G Sanderson and R Dodd from Northumberland County Council on their appointment as Cabinet Members and welcomed them to the meeting.

Building Post-Coronavirus Recovery

The Mayor introduced the subject and explained that, in response to the launch of the 2020 Comprehensive Spending Review, the Combined Authority had prepared an ambitious submission to Government.

H Kippin, the Director of Economic Growth, delivered a presentation on the Combined Authority's approach to building an effective post-Coronavirus recovery.

The North of Tyne Combined Authority was one of nine combined authorities submitting their proposals to Government.

The proposals were strongly aligned with efforts of the wider North East region. These wider North East proposals were developed in partnership with stakeholders and partners such as the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), universities, the North East Combined Authority and the voluntary sector.

The North of Tyne recovery deal brought forward £1.1bn of proposed investment, with proposals structured around five key areas:

- Jobs, skills and livelihoods
- Accelerating transition to future economy
- Supporting our business, high streets and places
- Fiscal innovation, health and prevention
- Transport, infrastructure and connectivity

Following the presentation, a short animation video was shown about the current position and planning for the future. This included the impact of Coronavirus, the scope of actions that had already been taken by the Combined Authority to support the region and preparation of asks for more funding for the government for proposals that would enable the Combined Authority to redesign and support the economy and create jobs.

The Mayor explained that the £1.1bn ask from the government would help to create 35,000 jobs, 14,000 training places, ensure future economy, good secure jobs, good housing and reliable transport.

In discussion:

Members welcomed the joint proposals, the comprehensive and inclusive opportunities within them, which were based on the local need, including rural, urban and coastal, and which were supported by a clear vision.

Members welcomed the vision, ambition and strong leadership that the Combined Authority was demonstrating in tackling current challenges, supporting business and communities and planning for the future.

Members welcomed the proposals to support and create new industries, grow the economy, create and protect jobs, deliver training and develop skills, deliver housing, improve health and wellbeing, whilst recognising the unique strengths and challenges of the area and working to attract investment for the region. Members also welcomed cooperation with partners and stakeholders, which had resulted in joint-up proposals.

The Mayor commented on the scope of this work to bring the proposals and drew attention to a previous letter from the government that had invited him to lead on pulling together a regional economic response. The Combined Authority had been working with partners, including in other local authorities, public organisations and businesses, representing a united approach.

Members thanked H Kippin for coordinating this work, including across the region.

96 **CONSTITUTION REVIEW - OFFICER DELEGATIONS**

Submitted: A report of the Monitoring Officer (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which sought approval of a revised scheme of officer delegations to allow more powers to make a wider range of decisions. The report was introduced by J Softly, the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Approved the revised scheme at Appendix A of the report; and
- ii. Authorised the Interim Monitoring Officer to incorporate the revised scheme in the Constitution and make any consequential changes to other parts of the Constitution to ensure consistency.

97 **CONSTITUTION REVIEW - APPOINTMENTS**

Submitted: A report of the Monitoring Officer (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which sought approval for the proposed changes in membership and also set out information on the recent changes in membership regarding Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report was introduced by J Softly, the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet noted and agreed the appointments as set out in the report.

98 **INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE AND FUNDING APPROVALS**

Submitted: A report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on progress that had been made on the Investment Fund and brought forward the latest investment proposals within the agreed Investment Plan. The report was introduced by Councillor B Pickard, the Portfolio Holder.

The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, on behalf of Cabinet, welcomed the progress achieved, emphasising specific sectors of the economy.

Comments were made about the importance of, and opportunities within, the green economy, pointing out that a lot of work was already taking place, including many projects progressing and jobs created.

Thanks were offered to officers and partners in the constituent Local Authorities for their work.

In light of the increased use of different digital techniques by various organisations during the pandemic, the voluntary and social enterprise sector were excited to see the NTCA work on digital innovation and keen to work jointly to see how this work could enhance the work of the voluntary and social enterprise sector.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Noted progress to date on the Investment Fund, achievement of key milestones and ongoing development work, particularly in respect of defrayed expenditure and project development in relation to our priority sectors;
- ii. Noted progress in relation to the NTCA's Digital Growth and Innovation Programme;
- iii. Approved funding of £1,630,633 to fund the project 'National Innovation Centre for Data - Bespoke Delivery for NTCA' detailed in section 2.6 of this report, subject to the funding conditions set out in section 2.6.7 of this report;
- iv. Endorsed the approach recommended by Investment Panel in relation to the launch of a digital ecosystem support open call for projects, as set out in section 2.7 of the report - with an overall budget of £5m available from within the Digital Sector Allocation agreed by Cabinet in January 2020;
- v. Noted progress in relation to the NTCA Employability and Skills Programme (phase 1), detailed in section 2.8 of the report; and authorised the Interim Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Employability and Inclusion, to finalise the relevant general and project specific funding conditions associated with in-principle funding offers made following Investment Panel recommendations in November and December 2019, and to approve the final funding awards to successful applicants;
- vi. Noted progress made in developing next steps and a proposed approach for allocating the Skills for Growth funding agreed by Cabinet, as a part of wider work to support the growth of key sectors, as set out in section 2.9 of the report. And authorised the Interim Head of Paid Service, in consultation with

Investment Panel, to agree the priorities for the NTCA Skills for Growth programme and to launch an open call for proposals in due course;

- vii. Noted progress in relation to operationalising the Green New Deal Fund set out in section 2.10, consistent with the recommendations previously agreed by Cabinet, including the launch of an open call to identify an intermediary body to manage the Fund; and
- viii. Authorised the Interim Head of Paid Service to finalise the conditions to be attached to the above funding awards and authorised the Interim Monitoring Officer to complete the necessary documentation.

99 **BROWNFIELD HOUSING FUND**

Submitted: A report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on the North of Tyne Brownfield Housing Fund (BHF) programme, including the basis of the Fund and a proposed delivery that had been developed in partnership between the Combined Authority, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (HMCLG) and constituent councils. The report was introduced by Mayor N Redfern, the Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Holder.

Mayor Redfern noted the collaborative way in which proposals for delivery were being developed, and that NTCA's cross-sector Housing and Land Board would be closely involved in shaping progress.

The Mayor, on behalf of Cabinet, welcomed this additional funding for the area, which had been secured by the creation of this Combined Authority.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet:

- i. noted the progress made in operationalising the devolved Housing Brownfield Fund;
- ii. authorised the Interim Head of Paid Service - in consultation with Investment Panel, the Housing and Land Board and the Mayor to consider and agree the North of Tyne Brownfield Housing Programme;
- iii. authorised the Interim Head of Paid Service - in consultation with the Investment Panel, the Mayor and the Portfolio Holder to consider and approve relevant business case applications for the North of Tyne Brownfield Housing Programme; and
- iv. authorised the Interim Head of Paid Service to finalise the conditions for funding awards and authorise the Interim Monitoring Officer to complete the necessary documentation relating to the awards.

100 **INCLUSIVE ECONOMY INNOVATION FUND**

Submitted: A report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on progress with the development of an Inclusive Economy Innovation Fund for the North of Tyne and sought approval for the next steps. The report was introduced by Councillor J McCarty, the Portfolio Holder.

The Mayor, on behalf of Cabinet, welcomed the report and spoke about the principle of citizens' engagement or working with people as an important principle that underpinned all work of the Combined Authority.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Noted the progress in relation to the development of an Inclusive Economy Innovation Fund for the North of Tyne;
- ii. Authorised the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder, to finalise next steps in taking forward the Fund, including approving a supporting Prospectus; and
- iii. Welcomed the consideration by NTCA Investment Panel of a future report setting out the delivery plan and operational processes for the Inclusive Economy Innovation Fund once finalised, following a period of consultation with potential co-investors.

101 **SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE INTO EMPLOYMENT - KICKSTART AND YOUTH HUBS**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which sought support for the proposed approach to the delivery of the Kickstart Scheme and the development of Youth Hubs to support young people to access good job opportunities, build their skills and work experience.

The report was introduced by Councillor J McCarty, the Portfolio Holder.

Members welcomed this important work to supplement support for young people. Comments were made about challenging times ahead as a result of pandemic.

The Voluntary and Social Enterprise Sector welcomed the proposals, including the NTCA becoming intermediary to enable smaller organisations to host young people; and, if there was an opportunity to join the Kickstart with Youth Hubs with the Department for Work and Pension (DWP) framework, that would bring a real opportunity for a meaningful offer for young people as well as bring together a whole range of partners, some of whom might have not worked together before.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Supported the proposed approach to the Kickstart Scheme;
- ii. Supported the development of Youth Hubs in collaboration with NTCAs constituent local authorities, Jobcentre Plus and wider partners;
- iii. Allocated up to £500,000 from the Inclusive Economy Innovation Fund budget, subject to full business case, to support the NTCAs role as a Representative/Intermediary body for the Kickstart scheme;
- iv. Allocated up to £400,000 from the Inclusive Economy Innovation Fund budget, subject to full business case, to co-invest alongside DWP in a Youth Hub approach as detailed in the report;
- v. Authorised the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with Investment Panel and the Portfolio Holder for Employability and Inclusion to consider business cases for funding in relation to Kickstart and Youth Hubs referenced above and to finalise any funding awards.

102 **ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET DEVOLUTION**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which outlined the performance management arrangements related to the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) and sought approval for a recommended approach to allocating AEB funding, in year, to both Contractors for Services and Grant Providers. The report was introduced by Councillor J McCarty, the Portfolio Holder.

It was noted that investment had been made in digital support for learning; and this might need to be revisited, if pandemic continued to impact on adult education provision.

Regarding the monitoring of performance, it was noted that the NTCA team was in regular communication with providers. And as the programme, which was less than two months into its delivery, progressed, it would be feasible that a report on the performance of the first quarter could be provided to a future meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Noted the performance management arrangements in place to monitor the devolved AEB; and
- ii. Authorised the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Employability and Inclusion, to approve funding allocations to both Contract for Services and Grant Providers.

103 **BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS PORTFOLIO UPDATE**

Submitted: A report of the Portfolio Holder for Business Competitiveness (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet received an update on progress across the Business Competitiveness Portfolio, which prioritised cross-sector innovation, entrepreneurship and investment in activities to support a more inclusive economy in the North of Tyne. The report was introduced by Councillor N Forbes, the Portfolio Holder.

The Mayor, on behalf of Cabinet, welcomed the report and the progress achieved; and drew attention to examples of success in this area of work as well as the importance of developing the future of the area's economy.

RESOLVED - That Cabinet:

- i. Welcomed progress in relation to delivering the Combined Authority's priorities for the digital, green growth and ageing and longevity sectors; and
- ii. Noted next steps in relation to the ongoing activity to deliver the Cabinet's priorities in these areas.

104 **2021-2025 FINANCIAL PLANNING AND BUDGET PROCESS**

Submitted: A report of the Chief Finance Officer (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which outlined the process to be adopted for the Authority's Financial Planning and Budget process for 2021/22 as part of the proposed framework for the four years 2021/22 to 2024/25. The report was introduced by J Gillespie, the Chief Finance Officer.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet approved the proposed outline 2021-2025 Financial Planning and Budget process, which incorporated the key decision milestones and dates as set out at Appendix A to the report.

105 **NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP - FUNDING DECISIONS UPDATE**

Submitted: A report of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Chief Executive (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on the work and decisions of the LEP with a focus on project funding decisions that related to the programmes that were managed by the LEP for which NTCA was the accountable body since 1 April 2020. The report was introduced by J Gillespie, the Chief Finance Officer.

The report also provided summary information about the Local Growth Fund (LGF), Enterprise Zones (EZ) and the North East Investment Fund (NEIF) programmes,

including decisions related to a COVID-19 rapid response fund that had been established using uncommitted LEP resources.

The report also provided information about the appointment of the new Chair of the North East LEP Board.

The Mayor welcomed Ms Lucy Winskell to Cabinet.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Noted the report which provides information on the work and decisions of the North East LEP; and
- ii. Appointed Ms Lucy Winskell, the new North East LEP Chair, as a non-voting member of Cabinet in line with Part 2.1. of the NTCA Constitution.

106 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

24 November 2020 at 2pm (remote meeting).

The Mayor thanked Members and Officers for their work.

107 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There was no exclusion of press and public.

108 **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP - FUNDING DECISIONS UPDATE - APPENDICES**

Submitted: Background documents (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

This document had been circulated to Members as part of the agenda pack for the meeting.