

Cabinet

25 February 2020

(2.05 - 2.30 am)

Meeting held: Committee Room, North Tyneside Council, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY

Approved Minutes

Present:

Chair: Mayor J Driscoll

Councillors N Forbes, C Homer, P Jackson, J McCarty and B Pickard and Mayor N Redfearn

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

In his opening remarks, the Mayor spoke about his meeting with Verisure, the Inward Investment partner of the North of Tyne Combined Authority. He was pleased to announce that this project had come to fruition bringing many jobs to the area, including much needed high quality jobs.

57 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor W Daley.

58 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

59 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Regarding the Investment Fund and approaches to investment, a Member spoke about the importance of stepping up communications to the public domain to ensure vital opportunities for investment were not missed. The Director of Economic Growth confirmed that work was ongoing to improve communications and engagement, and Members' comments would be fed into the process. The Mayor added that work was underway to address staff capacity on the communications side.

60 EMPLOYABILITY AND INCLUSION

Submitted: A report of the Employability and Inclusion Portfolio Holder (previously circulated and attached to the Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on the progress of various projects across the Employability and Inclusion Portfolio. Councillor J McCarty, the Portfolio Holder, introduced the report and provided further updates.

In welcoming the report, the Mayor commented on the importance of this work, in making a difference for the people of the region. He offered thanks to everyone involved and praised the significant amount of work being undertaken within this portfolio.

Regarding the European Social Fund, the Mayor spoke about his continuous work to lobby the government at various levels regarding the importance of this funding for the area.

The Deputy Mayor welcomed the report and the opportunities that the projects presented.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Noted the progress in relation to the following:
 - Inclusive Economy Board
 - NTCA DWP Employment Framework
 - Good Work Pledge
 - Devolved Adult Education Budget
 - Working Homes test and learn project
 - Carers into Work pilot
 - Employability and Skills Programme Phase 1
- ii. Delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder, to finalise the terms of reference for, and appointments to, the Inclusive Economy Board.

61 **CLIMATE CHANGE - A SUGGESTED NORTH OF TYNE APPROACH ON ENGAGEMENT WITH CITIZENS - CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which invited it to consider how the Combined Authority could contribute to tackling Climate Change, adding value to what was being done by the constituent councils, and recommended the creation of a Citizens' Assembly to help this process. The Mayor introduced the report.

In discussion, Members spoke about the importance of the work to tackle Climate Change and the big challenges involved in this work. Members also spoke about the role of a wide-ranging engagement.

From Members' comments, it was also noted that:

- It was important to unite on the Climate Change work.
- The proposed work fitted well with the work that was being done by Newcastle City Council.
- The Climate Change agenda required urgent actions. Any proposals put forward should not inadvertently increase inequalities.
- It was important to reach out to the rural community to ensure it was represented.
- Interventions and proposals should add value and link well with the work that was already being undertaken by local authorities.
- Northumberland County Council found its Climate Change Commission a valuable resource.
- Considering the timescales involved and with many local authorities already consulting with stakeholders on Climate Change, a Member queried the added value of the proposed Citizens' Assembly. A Member suggested that the role of the North of Tyne Combined Authority within the Climate Change context should be to lead on the promotion of the Green Economy Agenda.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Approved the creation of a Citizens' Assembly to look at a specific set of issues relating to Climate Change that would produce actionable recommendations for the North of Tyne Combined Authority to consider.
- ii. Noted that the creation of a Citizens' Assembly would involve:
 - Recruitment of a 'deliberative democracy provider' – an external organisation to design and facilitate the Citizens' Assembly;
 - Establishment of an Oversight Panel to determine the topic and questions to be put to the Citizens' Assembly to consider;
 - Ensuring the inclusion of citizens from diverse backgrounds and cohorts.

- iii. Delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Investment Panel and Portfolio Holder, to finalise arrangements, working within the budget envelope outlined in section 7.1 of the report.

62 **UPDATE TO THE 2020-21 BUDGET REFLECTING THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NORTH EAST LEP TRANSFER**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which provided information on the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Budget and how it would be accounted for in the accounts of the North of Tyne Combined Authority as a result of the Authority becoming the accountable body for the LEP from 1 April 2020.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet noted the contents of the report and, in doing so, noted the update on the 2019-2020 North East LEP Revenue Budget and Provisional Estimate for the Revenue Budget for 2020-2021, including the Invest North East England Budget and Enterprise Zone Account.

63 **COMMUNITY HUBS INVESTMENT FUND**

Item deferred to a future meeting.

64 **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 24 March 2020 at 2pm.

These minutes were approved by Cabinet and signed by the Chair (Mayor J Driscoll) on 2 June 2020.