

North of Tyne Combined Authority, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 30 June 2020 at 10.00 am

The meeting will be held virtually and live streamed - please use the link below:

https://youtu.be/h_4hbpjE6uo

Further details will be emailed to all participants and published on the Combined Authority's website at www.northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

AGENDA

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1. Welcome and Introductions	
2. Apologies	
3. Declarations of Interest	
4. Agree the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2020	1 - 8
5. Covid-19 NTCA response and recovery plans	9 - 14
In attendance: Henry Kippin, Director of Economic Growth	
Attached: Report	
6. Mayoral update - first year in office	15 - 20
In attendance: Mayor Jamie Driscoll	
Attached: Mayoral Briefing	
7. North East LEP Governance	21 - 26

In attendance: John Softly, Interim Monitoring Officer and Helen Golightly,
Chief Executive of North East LEP

Attached: Report

8. **Agreement of Work Programme 2020/21**

27 - 32

In attendance: Elizabeth Kerr

Attached: Report

9. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

13 October 2020 at 10.00am, expected to be an online meeting'

Contact Officer:

Tel: (0191) 2116146

Email: Lynn.Camsell@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk



Draft Minutes for Approval Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10 March 2020

(10.00 - 11.00 am)

Meeting held: Committee Room, Civic Centre, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH

Present:

Chair: Cllr Gregah Alan Roughead

Vice Chair: Cllr L Wright

Councillors: S Dungworth, P Earley, S Graham, M Hall, P Holland, G Stewart, and G Stone

46 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

47 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr A Lower
Cllr Stone attended as a substitute for Cllr Lower

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

49 AGREEMENT OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair

50 CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND LAND

Mayor Redfearn, as Cabinet Member for Housing and Land, had previously provided a briefing note, a copy of which was circulated and attached to the Official Minutes.

Mayor Redfearn provided an update on her portfolio highlighting the following points:

The focus on the housing and land portfolio was to increase the net new additions to local housing need figures from a baseline of 1,800 per year to 3,000 per year by 2032. The Housing and Land Board, which is advisory, will oversee an integrated programme of housing delivery across the North of Tyne area and is very much focused on collaboration. It is made up of Members, housing providers and experts and has input from public, private and non-profit sectors. It does not replicate what is already there.

The powers of the Combined Authority in respect of housing and land are limited. The Combined Authority does have powers around compulsory purchase orders and powers in respect of Mayoral Development Corporations, however, there are no plans to use these at present.

A programme of work has begun and very shortly the Combined Authority will bring forward a vision for housing and a set of early investments and next steps. The new homes target for this year is already being met and needs to be sustained.

Homes must be accessible to all which means providing homes of all types and tenures from affordable housing to executive style homes; developing housing options that meet the range of needs present across the North of Tyne area.

Investment will be needed in social housing, improving standards in the private rented sector and encouraging the development of more supported housing and other types of housing suitable for an aging population.

The Combined Authority is in the final stages of agreeing a partnership with Homes England which will allow the Authority to set out its priorities, building on work already undertaken by the three local authorities. There will be a variety of strategic objectives which will include:

- Low Carbon – the creation of sustainable, low carbon communities that are fit for the future.
- Ageing ready - Mayor Redfearn stressed the importance of being ageing ready, adapting to an ageing society.
- Digitally connected - In relation to digital connectivity the Authority is investing in rural broadband in Northumberland and expanding fibre connections in Newcastle and North Tyneside.
- Aligned to infrastructure – Improvements to transport infrastructure providing an opportunity to open up new sites for housing and employment; for example, the Northumberland – North Tyneside – Newcastle rail line.

- City, Coast and Country – a variety of approaches towards building construction, recognising the needs of rural communities and urban centres and a mix of tenure suitable for all.

Preliminary proposals will be presented to the Housing and Land Board meeting in April and to the North of Tyne Cabinet meeting in April. There will be extra capacity to support existing officers to develop a 'pipeline' of sites but will also help with strategic planning, design and the capacity to do proper market testing to understand the viability of the proposed developments. To achieve extra capacity a capacity fund could be developed in collaboration with Homes England.

In relation to infrastructure Mayor Redfearn advised that the Combined Authority, through the Devolution Deal, is committed to an infrastructure statement which would involve the bringing together of the infrastructure plans for each local authority as well as plans for transport related infrastructure being developed for the region.

It is the aim of the Combined Authority to create a prospectus that helps to bring housing ambitions closer to being realised and provide residents with access to good housing.

Mayor Redfearn responded to questions/comments from members which included:

- A member referred to the ageing population and the types of housing that will be required to meet a variety of needs such as wider doors to accommodate wheelchairs and sensors that will activate alarms. In response Mayor Redfearn explained that the Board will promote why a variety of housing types are important in new developments and also there will be specialists to work with the Housing and Land Board to design and provide the styles of accommodation required by an ageing population.
- Responding to a query as to how the Combined Authority can add value to the work already being undertaken on housing types and retrofitting for older properties. Mayor Redfearn explained that an audit of where each local authority was at and what needed to be done would be undertaken and also the area as a whole to identify areas where we can build. She also added that Central Government are looking for authorities that can demonstrate that they have the ability and the capacity to move forward for pilot schemes relating to housing, for example. In respect of infrastructure the Authority has to be proactive; some funding is already in place to move forward in reopening the Northumberland – North Tyneside – Newcastle line. Once opened it was anticipated that it would help to reduce the congestion in urban centres.
- A member referred to ageing ready and digitally connected homes, those living in isolated communities many of whom work from home and the fibre connection required to enable this. In responding, Mayor Redfearn spoke about the ambitions of the Combined Authority to enable modern methods of construction and the provision of a digital infrastructure programme, Central Government have already provided funding towards costs of fibre connectivity.

- Mayor Redfearn was asked to elaborate on the mix of tenure and how she could guarantee that landlords will deliver a range of housing. She explained that houses and homes are about people and affect the way people feel about their environment. The membership of the Housing and Land Board includes a representative from the private landlords association and there was good communication with the sector, it was important that we take them with us.
- Reference was made to the possibility of an accreditation scheme for private landlords and asked how the Housing and Land Board could work with those private homeowners who have derelict properties. Mayor Redfearn explained that the Board can work with private homeowners and partners and gave examples of how this has worked in North Tyneside. Local Authorities are proactive and innovative in tackling derelict properties.
- The Chair referred to the membership of the Housing and Land Board which he felt were all appropriate but flagged up the vacancy for a representative for rural interests suggesting that this be progressed.

The Chair thanked Mayor Redfearn for attending and addressing committee.

51 **UPDATE ON LOCAL FULL FIBRE NETWORKS**

Submitted: Report of the Digital Infrastructure Programme Manager (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes).

P Armstrong introduced the report the purpose of which was to update Committee on the progress of the NTCA Digital Infrastructure Programme. This follows an initial paper which was presented on 2 July 2019.

In considering the report Members noted that on 26 September 2018 the NTCA Digital Infrastructure Programme was awarded up to £12m grant funding from the DCMS Local Full Fibre Networks fund for the delivery of gigabit capable connectivity to public sector sites in Northumberland.

The grant funding will be used in conjunction with existing Council Wide Area Network (WAN) budgets to ensure commercial viability and to provide a connected region. Cabinet have agreed that £550,000 from the Investment Fund be used to fund resources and external specialist support to deliver the programme of works.

Progress and an update were detailed in section 2.1 of the report. The number of public sites previously anticipated had reduced from 313 to 280. This was due to:

- 23 schools being selected to be part of a Department for Education (DfE) Rural Gigabit Connectivity Scheme therefore their funding provided by DfE.
- 4 sites being delivered by the existing iNorthumberland programme.
- 15 sites being removed from the programme for State Aid compliance.

Reference was also made to the NTCA's membership of the regional Digital Infrastructure Working Group which included local authorities and associated planning and highway departments, the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, the North East Combined Authority and the Tess Valley Combined Authority. Work was being undertaken on aligning planning conditions, engaging with house builders and providers to create the right conditions for their investment

Questions/Comments from Members

- A request for a list of the 271 sites in Northumberland which will get the gigabit capable connectivity
- A request for a list of the 23 schools in the DfE Rural Gigabit Connectivity and the 4 sites in the iNorthumberland programme.
- A request for a list of the sites removed because of State Aid compliance.
- Any information that demonstrates that it is not just rural areas receiving assistance.

RESOLVED – that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the information contained in the report and requested additional information as set out in the points above.

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

Submitted: Report of the Interim Section 73 Officer (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes).

J Gillespie introduced the report the purpose of which was to provide an update to the 2020/21 Budget to reflect the implications of the North East LEP transfer.

She advised Members that Committee have previously received information in respect of the LEP budget and the associated risk areas as part of the budget consultation and this was the latest position. Members also noted that the NTCA would take responsibility for the LEP budget on 1 April.

RESOLVED – that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the update to the 2020/21 Budget reflecting the implications of the North East LEP transfer (Appendix 1).

53 **ANNUAL REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Submitted: Report of the Monitoring Officer (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes)

J Softly presented the report the purpose of which was to advise the Committee of proposed changes to NTCA's Constitution and updated Committee on the use of decision-making powers.

The Monitoring Officer referred to the papers circulated at the meeting. The papers provided an update on the appointment of the Mayoral Ambassador for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector and the Inclusive Economy Board.

The proposed changes to the Constitution were set out in section 2.1 of the report; Mayoral Ambassador, Inclusive Economy Board, Financial Regulations and delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer. Regarding urgent decisions and call-in and waiving of the 28 days' notice of forthcoming decisions it was reported that there has been no occasion to date when it has been necessary to use those provisions. Also, there has been no request for a decision to be called in. A list of delegated decisions reported to Cabinet were detailed in Appendix 1.

The Chair requested that the proposed draft changes to the Constitution be circulated to all Committee Members.

RESOLVED – that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report and requested that the proposed draft changes to the Constitution be circulated to all Committee Members

54 **ADOPTION OF CABINET-SCRUTINY PROTOCOL**

Submitted: Report of the Policy and Scrutiny Officer (previously submitted and a copy attached to the Official Minutes)

E Kerr introduced the report the purpose of which was to present the Committee with the first North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) Cabinet-Scrutiny Protocol and seek Committee's endorsement.

The Overview and Scrutiny statutory guidance highlights the importance of raising awareness in the wider authority of scrutiny's role and function and encourages the production of an Executive-Scrutiny protocol.

Members heard that the protocol was a starting point and reflected comments made by the Committee and included input from the Chair and Vice Chair.

The Chair commended E Kerr for the work involved to produce the protocol and suggested that it be reviewed annually. It was also suggested that a future workshop be scheduled in about 6 months' time where member could discuss and further develop the protocol.

RESOLVED – that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorsed the Cabinet-Scrutiny Protocol.

55 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

Submitted: Report of the Policy and Scrutiny Officer (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes)

E Kerr briefly introduced the report and thanked members for their work and attendance throughout the year, especially for ensuring that each meeting was quorate.

RESOLVED – that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the submission of the Annual Report to the Cabinet meeting in June 2020.

56 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 June 2020

Subject:	The role of the North of Tyne Combined Authority in supporting Covid 19 recovery
Report of:	Henry Kippin, Director of Economic Growth

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny committee with an overview of how the North of Tyne Combined Authority is supporting recovery from Covid19 within the region. It outlines the framework that is being used and a number of key initial areas of activity that will be followed up in more depth with the Committee at future meetings.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report and endorse the overall approach being proposed.

1. Introduction

The impact of Covid19 has been deep, wide and is ongoing. It has affected citizens and communities, changed patterns of demand for public services, radically shifted citizen behaviour in our towns, cities and places, and has created an economic shock that will be felt for some time to come.

In response, local areas have mobilised quickly and with a high degree of collaboration and coordination. For example:

- Local Authorities have faced new demands on social care and have extended rapid relief measures to businesses in their localities.
- NHS and care partners have faced a wave of Covid19 treatment related demand, and continue to manage the possibility of further spikes.

- Police, Fire and community services have been asked to manage the social and behavioural consequences of lockdown, and shifting patterns of vulnerability and risk within communities.
- All have dealt with issues around the distribution of PPE, the management of increased mortality, delivery of (and adaptation to) central Government measures and public health advice, and the capacity of the system to offer mutual support at a time of stretched resources.

2. Recovery from Covid 19 – What does it mean and why is it different?

Recovery from Covid19 will not look or feel like a traditional crisis recovery process. This is because:

- a) There is no reasonable expectation of a quick return to 'normal'. We know that we will be living with – and adapting to – the effects of the virus for some considerable time. This makes the recovery period longer and more complex than would usually be the case.
- b) The nature of the crisis is cross-sector. It impacts on our economy, our places, our citizens and public services in ways that cannot be quickly 'corrected'. This means that the range of partners and perspectives needed is wider and more nuanced than might otherwise be the case.
- c) Our understanding of effect of Covid19 is still evolving. We do know, however, that it has been profound – with a high number of attributable deaths, a huge economic and psychological impact, and an exacerbating of some existing inequalities (e.g. health, ethnicity, economic).
- d) Measures to enable recovery are not straightforward, and may in themselves create new or changing demands – for example the impact of test, track and trace on workforce planning; or the impact of 'unlocking' city centres on transport.
- e) The balance of recovery is therefore different to a typical incident or outbreak. There is a particular need for economic adaptation of a scale that may end up being unprecedented. The role of local partners is not only to mitigate a set of immediate effects, but to help transition a set of public services, businesses and civil society organisations into new ways of working.

This means that:

- a) The recovery process will not be linear. It is highly contingent on evolving public health advice, and the interdependence between public health, public confidence, the economy and the nature of decisions made by Government.

- b) There will be a need for flexibility and ongoing good communication across sectors – creating a plan for the future, but retaining the ability to mobilise quickly in the face of further incidents or waves.
- c) Local areas and individual services will bring forward their own recovery plans according to their own particular needs. At a regional level, measures are being taken to ensure there is enough coordination between them to deliver the critical identified actions that we need as a precondition for recovery.
- d) This is undoubtedly a long-term endeavour, and be flexible in adapting to a potentially changing set of requirements in terms of how recovery structures and activities play out on the ground.

3. The Role of the NTCA in Covid Recovery

It will be clear from the introduction above that the North of Tyne Combined Authority is one player within a system-wide response to Covid recovery that spans social, economic and public service settings. The principle on which Cabinet has steered our work is to ensure we are adding value: supporting the role of our constituent authorities, accelerating the deployment of necessary resource, and focusing resource on securing the investment and powers necessary to underpin long term recovery. This has included:

1. Extension of capacity and resource to support short term Covid response – including making staff available to support immediate local business response and contributing to local authority response work as requested.
2. Approval and deployment of Covid19 Capacity Fund – Cabinet agreed a rapid £5 million fund – delivered through constituent authorities – allocated to support business, the voluntary sector and place impacts.
3. Approval of funding to support Digital Inclusion – Cabinet agreed £680,000 to support targeted measures to address digital exclusion exacerbated through Covid; prioritising school age children (where digital exclusion is exacerbating learning loss), and marginalised adults.
4. Leading regional recovery planning – NTCA has played a key role within cross-regional efforts to design, establish and deliver regional recovery structures; and has contributed substantively to national recovery planning via the M9 network and other bodies.
5. Operationalising NTCA schemes and longer term investments – Cabinet has continued to deliver on ambitions within its Economic Vision, bringing forward investments in rural growth, digital innovation, offshore wind, culture and creative sector recovery, and tourism.

As we transition from the response to medium-term recovery phase, NTCA will look to add value through:

1. Securing future Government investment and devolution powers and flexibilities – working with Government to maximise the value of devolution to the region and in ways that support local recovery – including in forthcoming and future fiscal events.
2. Accelerating investments in sectors and places – continuing to deliver on Cabinet ambitions and Devolution Deal targets for jobs and productivity.
3. Supporting collaboration and adding value to local recovery – continuing to support constituent Local Authorities in ways that add value through investment, resource and strengthening collaborative working.
4. Playing a key role in cross-regional recovery – playing our full role in ensuring that the North East is well placed to receive funding and can support its people and key economic sectors as well as possible.

4. Net Zero and Green Recovery

NTCA Cabinet has placed particular emphasis on recovering from the crisis in a way that reinforces its shared goal of creating jobs and growth whilst decarbonising the economy. In particular:

1. Each Local Authority (including NTCA) has declared a climate emergency and has committed to reducing CO2 emissions over an accelerated timescale through a range of measures.
2. NTCA Cabinet has agreed a bold allocation of £24 million funding to support clean energy, green jobs and carbon reduction. This includes a £10m 'Green New Deal' fund (to support low carbon jobs), £12m to support offshore renewable energy, and £2m for a Green Growth skills programme. Delivery arrangements for these investments are currently being worked through by the NTCA team, overseen by the relevant portfolio holders and Investment Panel. Cabinet also approved further development work by the NTCA team to scope a 'Carbon Reduction Fund'.
3. Cabinet has approved a citizen's assembly on climate change – which was scheduled to begin in Spring/Summer 2020, but which will necessarily be delayed by Covid19.
4. The Housing and Land Board, and subsequently Cabinet, has endorsed a housing forward view which prioritises the development of 'climate ready' housing and infrastructure, beginning with feasibility work that is now in the process of being commissioned following approval from Investment Panel.

5. The NTCA team continues to work with Government with a view to securing further funding to support green infrastructure (including housing retrofit).

5. Appendices

None. A presentation will be delivered at the meeting.

6. Background papers

[Investment Fund Update Report: Energy, Green Growth and Climate Change – a North of Tyne Blueprint – Cabinet 24 March 2020](#)

7. Contact Officers

Henry Kippin, Director of Economic Growth

Henry.kippin@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

8. Glossary

PPE – Personal Protective Equipment

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee Mayoral Briefing

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has invited me, Mayor Jamie Driscoll to your meeting on **Tuesday 30th June 2020** to provide the committee with a briefing on my first year in office.

1. Introduction

It has been an unalloyed honour to represent the people of the North of Tyne for the past year.

I knew that building a new organisation would be a challenge. On my first day, cameras and film crews outnumbered the permanent staff.

A key responsibility of the Mayor is to engage with Government. May and June saw government instability over Brexit. July heralded a new Prime Minister, and Cabinet reshuffle. August saw Parliament ordered to be prorogued, and September was filled with expectation of an imminent General Election. A cliff-edge Brexit was a very real possibility. The election was finally called in October and ran through November and December. Members will know that we are prevented from making announcements or spending commitments during an election purdah period.

No sooner had we left the EU in January, then in February, after another Cabinet reshuffle, just as we were ramping up our investment programme, we were hit by the worst pandemic in living memory. Followed by the lockdown in March.

If a screenwriter had written this as a political drama, it would be condemned as an improbable fiction.

Despite these challenges, very real progress has been made in the delivery of NTCA's investment programme. NTCA has committed to deliver a variety of projects and programmes which support the Cabinet's priorities, now standing at £27.13 million. This includes the recent allocation in May of £5 million to the NTCA Covid-19 Capacity Fund. Based on current commitments 2,571 jobs are forecast to be created, all of which are properly remunerated and secure.

An exhaustive record of the work of NTCA over the past year would be, well, exhausting, so I'll focus on several major areas, and touch on a few others.

2. Public Engagement

I've met with business forums, community groups, religious organisations, trade unions, student bodies, schools, and public services organisations across the region, from Berwick to Allendale, and pretty much everywhere else in between.

In addition to the frequent updates via the NTCA communications channels and press releases, since September I publish a weekly column in The Chronicle and The Journal. I have also answered hundreds of items of correspondence and casework from residents, including advice about naval strategy and an invitation to a wedding.

3. Developing the NTCA into a delivery organisation

My immediate priority was to develop NTCA into an organisation capable of delivering for the people of the North of Tyne.

For an organisation of our size and remit the staff count is count is exceptionally low, with only 34 FTE permanent staff. We amplify our reach in part through collaboration with partners, including our constituent local authorities, and in part because we have a highly capable team.

Much of the work in the early months involved recruiting the right team. We have been fortunate enough to have attracted a high calibre of applicant, in part because of the exciting project of working for a Mayoral Combined Authority. The culture is positive, morale is high, and the leadership team is focused.

Our two permanent directors started full time in January, Dr Henry Kippin as Director of Economic Growth and Ruth Redfern, Director of Policy and Performance. So far both appointees have fulfilled the very high hopes I had of them. This has made a massive difference, and despite the unparalleled turbulence caused by Covid, we are operating at pace. Paul Hanson, Chief Exec of North Tyneside Council, has been our part-time Head of Paid Service (HOPS) since January, taking over the reins from Pat Ritchie.

I am pleased to say that we have a gender pay gap of exactly zero, as measured by median salary. As measured by mean earnings, the women get paid more than the men.

Political governance is working well. I appointed Mayor Norma Redfearn as Deputy Mayor. Working relationships with all of the Cabinet have deepened and strengthened over the year. Cabinet colleagues bring a wealth of experience to the policy direction of the authority. And despite being a cross-party Cabinet, the general election and national upheavals of the past year have not hampered our unity of purpose, which stands as a testament to the dedication of everyone concerned to deliver for the people of the North of Tyne.

We adapted swiftly to the lockdown and social distancing restrictions and have held weekly Cabinet calls. While we were waiting for central government to put emergency legislation in place, we kept the business of Cabinet going using delegated decisions (DDs), where the HOPS and I would discuss with Cabinet, and then approve the DDs.

I believe our scrutiny process is a model for others to follow. I've endeavoured to set a tone that sees Overview and Scrutiny as adding value to our governance. I meet monthly with the Chair and Vice-chair of O&S; they also contact me ad-hoc as needed. I would like to thank members of Overview and Scrutiny for their continued good work.

4. Jobs

Central government set the Combined Authority a target of creating 10,000 jobs over thirty years. That's 1,667 jobs during my five-year term.

Our business expansion programme will create 200 jobs in rural Northumberland, 252 across Newcastle and North Tyneside, and another 70 at Newcastle Helix.

Our Inward Investment Programme originally planned to bring another 600 jobs here. It has been so successful, that in November, we expanded the programme. The combined total from these programmes is now projected to create 2,571 jobs.

I've met directors of companies, talked up our area, and promoted our region. Good jobs - permanent, well paid, with career prospects. Despite stiff competition, we saw Verisure invest here after I met with their directors. We are conservatively identifying 453 jobs created, although the company plans to create 1000 jobs.

I have signed off further investments that have seen companies invest here, creating good jobs, and many more in the pipeline. These are still commercially confidential. Members who would like a briefing will of course be informed in a closed session.

The 2,571 figure includes only jobs directly created by these programmes. The sector work, detailed below, will create many more. In short, we are on target to smash our jobs target. Sadly, with the tsunami of economic damage caused by Covid, this will be more needed than ever.

In brief, we have allocated a further £10 million to develop the digital economy, and £8.4 million to develop our cultural sector. This includes support for cooperatives, micro businesses, and the development and nurturing of local and regional festivals, to boost tourism and improve quality of life.

5. Inclusive Economy

The whole of NTCA's investments are jobs focused. While most investments are about creating jobs, some are about removing barriers to work.

Members will be aware of our Return to Work for Carers programme, and our Working Homes programme. I won't repeat details here. Domestic abuse is an issue very close to my heart, and I am very pleased to say that NTCA is developing a programme to help victims of domestic abuse find economic independence.

I'm very pleased that Bishop Christine Hardman has agreed to chair our Inclusive Economy Board. The Board is focusing on Good Work and young people.

The Good Work Pledge is a model employment charter. It has full and active support from the business organisations and trade unions. Fully accredited employers will pay the Real Living Wage, not use exploitative employment practices, provide mental health support, in work progression, and commit to a wider social responsibility.

It will use social value clauses in procurement to incentivise employers to sign up. We have a number of employers signed up ahead of its launch. The launch itself has been delayed by the lockdown.

6. Green Growth and Climate Change: a just transition to a green economy

I declared a climate and ecological emergency on my first day in office. We now have our Environmental Policy in place, which commits us to being net-zero on both scope 1 and scope 2 carbon emissions. For the non-expert, this is a model of environmental commitment, which will include such things as staff travel and travel to work, and offsetting to make an immediate difference to carbon emissions.

Our Citizen's Assembly on climate change would have been reporting back around now, had the Covid crisis not delayed it. It will proceed as soon as the public health advice permits.

At the March Cabinet, approval was given for £24 million funding for green industrial development: £12 million for offshore renewable energy, £10 million for a Green New Deal Fund to stimulate job creation in low carbon innovative projects and £2 million for a Green Growth skills programme. A recyclable Carbon Reduction Fund is also being developed which will support energy generation and zero-carbon projects. A North of Tyne carbon offset scheme is being explored as part of this package, again creating jobs in the low carbon economy. We have not yet put a figure on the number of jobs this will create, but it will add to our already impressive total. This positions the North of Tyne as a clear national leader in green growth, with a just transition at its core.

7. Adult Education

Members will have had dedicated briefings about Adult Education. This is, however, a major part of NTCA's work, and our first major pot of devolved money beyond our investment fund.

In brief, meaningful adult education ensures that all North of Tyne residents have the skills to benefit from economic opportunities. Despite all of the instability in Whitehall and Westminster this year, the £23 million Adult Education Budget will be devolved to NTCA from 1st August. The team has put in terrific effort to ensure its smooth transfer. We have carried out procurement of £6.6 million of adult skills programmes to promote equality of opportunity for marginalised groups. This includes £650,000 for small scale innovative programmes.

8. Transport

NTCA does not have devolved transport powers. We work along with our colleagues in NECA via the Joint Transport Committee (JTC), of which I am a member.

I have had extensive discussions with Transport Ministers and the Secretary of State to bring forward funding for the Northumberland-North Tyneside-Newcastle line. This will be a major boost to our transport system.

Along with Cllr Martin Gannon, Chair of the JTC, I have successfully lobbied to get the emergency funding needed to keep our Metro system operational during the pandemic.

I've participated in the National Infrastructure Commission and Williams Review on the future of UK rail. My position has consistently been that we need very major investment in the East Coast Mainline, and that this work should start immediately and not wait for or be dependent upon HS2. These arguments are being accepted, we will see the NIC report later this year.

I've also spoken with bus operators, and I'm pleased to say that solutions are now being developed to the problems of joint ticketing across different bus operators. Trials would have been in place by now, but were delayed due to the Covid crisis.

9. Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic

This has been a difficult time for everybody. Everything has been affected. NTCA acted quickly. I approved a £5m Covid-19 Capacity Fund to provide funds to the constituent local authorities to supplement their support for small businesses and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. This is keeping businesses and VCSE organisations operational. £4.5 million is shared evenly between our three constituent local authorities, who have defined their own priorities for its use. The remaining £500,000 is funding a digital inclusion programme for vulnerable and isolated residents, including school kids who otherwise would not be able to do their schoolwork, adults who would not be able to look for work, and for carers in care homes.

Now that we're entering the economic recovery phase of the pandemic, NTCA is taking a leading role at a regional level. We are collaborating with the seven local authorities, the LEP, and other stakeholders. Our economic a plan for recovery will enable the North of Tyne and wider region to build back better. The quality and speed of our work has gained praise from several government Ministers, commenting that we have been amongst the best organised in the country. Not bad for such a young organisation.

10. Future Devolution

I have engaged with government from the start of my term to secure extra powers and funding. In all honesty, this was pretty fruitless during 2019, for all the reasons outlined in the introduction.

Post general election, however, has seen a great deal more success. Since January, I have met with Ministers and Secretaries of State frequently, both Chancellors of the Exchequer, and the Prime Minister.

I fully expect us to be entering into detailed discussions on additional powers and funding over the coming months, ahead of the Devolution White Paper which will be published in Autumn.

Members will be intimately aware of the history that led to the creation of NTCA as a Mayoral Combined Authority, and the split from NECA. I have always said that we are one region, and the Tyne not as a barrier, but as a set of bridges bringing our region together.

Although the JTC works effectively as a team, this governance arrangement is a barrier to further devolution. Government has made it crystal clear that we will only get devolved transport powers if we come together as a single Mayoral Combined Authority.

In the budget on 11th March, it was confirmed that we would get our share of the £4.2 billion transport infrastructure fund devolved in we come together as a single Mayoral Combined Authority. On a population basis, this equates to approximately £600 million over five years. There would be a significant uplift in other powers and devolved funds too.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 June 2020

Subject:	North East Local Enterprise Partnership Governance Arrangements
Report of:	John Softly, Interim Monitoring Officer

Report Summary

This report sets out NTCA's role as accountable body to the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP).

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- a) note and comment on the information in this report; and
- b) agree the proposed method of scrutiny for the North East LEP as set out in paragraph 3.

1. Background

- 1.1. When NTCA was established it was agreed to maintain joint working across the region through the continued operation of the North East LEP and the creation of the Joint Transport Committee (JTC), through which the North East Combined Authority (NECA) and NTCA would continue to exercise transport functions jointly.

- 1.2. The North East LEP is a partnership between senior representatives of the private, public, education and voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors and is responsible for promoting and developing economic growth in the 7 local authority areas across the region. The North East LEP produces the Strategic Economic Plan, which acts as a blueprint for the activities that are considered necessary to improve the economy of the region. A list of the North East LEP's current Board membership is attached as Appendix 1.

- 1.3. The North East LEP is not a corporate entity and so cannot hold funding and property or employ staff in its own right. It must do this through a legal entity acting on its behalf as an "accountable body". Similarly, the JTC is not a legal entity and it also requires an accountable body to operate effectively (e.g. as the recipient of grant funding).

- 1.4. As part of the joint regional arrangements, it was agreed that NECA would act as the accountable body for the JTC and NTCA would replace NECA as the accountable body for the North East LEP.
- 1.5. These arrangements were completed by officers in line with the authorisations agreed by Cabinet and from 1 April 2020, NTCA has become the accountable body for the North East LEP and NECA the accountable body for the JTC.

2. NTCA's role as the accountable body to the North East LEP

- 2.1. The North East LEP's budget (including its funding programmes and corporate budget) has now transferred from NECA to NTCA. NTCA is now the legal entity which will receive all funding awarded to the North East LEP and also the legal entity which distributes funding on behalf of the North East LEP to businesses and organisations under grant and loan agreements.
- 2.2. The North East LEP's staffing establishment (a total of 55 employees) has TUPE transferred to NTCA and are now NTCA employees. They continue to be based at the North East LEP's offices at St James Gate. A transfer of pension assets was agreed between NECA and NTCA to facilitate the staff transfer. As part of this transition, NTCA also became the accountable body for Invest North East England (INEE), which is the regional inward investment agency covering the North East LEP's area and comprises a team of 3 employees. (NB: INEE is not part of the North East LEP.)
- 2.3. The legal documentation which underpins these arrangements (namely the Accountable Body Agreement and Deed of Co-operation) sets out how the costs of supporting the North East LEP, INEE and the JTC are shared between the seven local authorities in line with the arrangements which existed prior to 1 April 2020. The seven local authorities collectively contribute £250k towards the North East LEP's annual revenue budget of £5.37m. The documentation also provides that the former accountable bodies to the North East LEP (i.e. NTCA and, prior to that, Sunderland City Council) will co-operate with NTCA to ensure that any assets and rights which they still hold for the benefit of the North East LEP continue to be applied for that purpose.
- 2.4. Whilst the North East LEP staff are now NTCA employees and NTCA is the legal entity which is responsible for administering its budget, it is important to note that the North East LEP Board retains responsibility for decision-making in terms of its programmes and priorities. Central government policy emphasises that LEPs should be private sector led and have operational independence. NTCA, as the legally and financially accountable body, must satisfy itself of the legality and financial probity of any decisions which it implements on behalf of the North East LEP. However, the Accountable Body Agreement makes clear that the role of NTCA does not involve the commercial or economic review of any decision or direction of the North East LEP as to the use of its funds or budget.

This replicates the position which applied to NECA when it was the accountable body to the North East LEP.

- 2.5. As NTCA will have to take various actions to give effect to the decisions of the North East LEP, NTCA itself will have to ensure that those actions are authorised through its own decision-making structure. Given that the scope of NTCA's decision-making in this regard is essentially restricted to the assurance role set out in the preceding paragraph, such decisions have been delegated to the Head of Paid Services, rather than being reported to Cabinet for decision each time.
- 2.6. In order to provide assurance that NTCA is properly discharging its role as accountable body to the North East LEP, a quarterly report on this area of work will be submitted to Cabinet. NTCA's role in supporting the North East LEP should also help to develop a greater awareness and understanding of the North East LEP 's programmes and objectives.

3. The Role of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 3.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have a role to play in the governance of the North East LEP as part of the decision-making structure of the NTCA as Accountable Body. The 2019 statutory guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities states that "Authorities should ensure they have appropriate arrangements in place to ensure the effective democratic scrutiny of Local Enterprise Partnerships' investment decisions" and the National Local Growth Assurance Framework states that "LEPs should agree with their Accountable Body the appropriate scrutiny arrangements to ensure that decisions have the necessary independent and external scrutiny in place".
- 3.2. As set out above, Cabinet is to receive a quarterly report regarding the work of the North East LEP and it is proposed that this report should also be brought to this Committee for its consideration. It should also be noted that, where it is necessary for NTCA to make a key decision to give effect to a North East LEP decision (eg where NTCA enters into a significant grant funding agreement), then this will need to be dealt with under the Forward Plan arrangements which apply to all of NTCA's key decisions.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Membership of the North East LEP Board

5. Background papers

- NTCA Budget Proposals 2020-2024 Report to Cabinet on 28 January 2020
- NTCA's role as Accountable Body for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership Report to Cabinet on 2 June 2020

- The [statutory guidance](#) on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities published in May 2019
- [National Local Growth Assurance Framework](#)

6. Contact Officers

John Softly, Interim Monitoring Officer
email: john.softly@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

Elizabeth Kerr, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
email: elizabeth.kerr@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

Membership of the North East LEP Board

Andrew Hodgson OBE

Chair

Heidi Mottram

Vice Chair

Gillian Hall

Chair of Innovation Board, member of Investment Board

Erika Leadbeater

Private Sector Board member and Innovation Board Member

John McCabe

Board member and Skills Advisory Panel member

Ammar Mirza CBE

Private sector Board member, Chair of Business Growth Board
North East LEP Board's local SME representative.

Andrew Moffat

Chair of Investment Board

Mark Thompson

Private Sector Board member and Investment Board member

Kate Wickham

Board member

Professor Stuart Corbridge

Further Education LEP Board member

Ellen Thinnesen

Further Education LEP Board member

Carol Botten

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) LEP Board member

Councillor Iain Malcolm

Vice Chair, Main Board. Leader of South Tyneside Council

Elected Mayor Norma Redfearn

Vice Chair, Main Board. Elected Mayor, North Tyneside Council

Mayor Jamie Driscoll

Mayor of the North of Tyne Combined Authority

Councillor Nick Forbes

Leader of Newcastle City Council

Councillor Martin Gannon

Leader of Gateshead Council

Councillor Simon Henig

Leader of Durham County Council

Councillor Peter Jackson

Observer, Main Board. Leader of Northumberland County Council

Councillor Graeme Miller

Observer, Main Board. Leader of Sunderland City Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 June 2020

Subject:	Work Programme 2020/2021
Report of:	Elizabeth Kerr, Policy and Scrutiny Officer

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree an initial work programme for the 2020/21 municipal year.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to agree the proposed work programme for the year ahead as detailed below, noting that due to the uncertainties of the current Covid-19 pandemic it is likely to change throughout the year to respond to matters as they arise, and make any recommendations considered appropriate.

1. Introduction

1.1. The role of the North of Tyne Combined Authority's (NTCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to:

- Review or scrutinise decisions made, or other actions taken, by the Cabinet or the Mayor in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the Cabinet's or the Mayor's responsibility.
- Make reports or recommendations to the Cabinet or the Mayor (as appropriate) with respect to the discharge of their functions or on matters of strategic importance that affect the North of Tyne area or inhabitants.
- Review the performance of the Cabinet and Mayor against objectives within their strategies and policies.
- Facilitate the exchange of information about the work of the Cabinet and the Mayor and share information and outcomes from reviews.

- 1.2. The members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can scrutinise and challenge the Cabinet and the Mayor and consider matters of strategic importance to residents within the North of Tyne area with a view to influencing the decisions of the Cabinet and the Mayor.
- 1.3. The Committee is responsible for determining its own work programme, having taken advice from relevant officers. When considering a work programme, it will:
 - Determine whether an issue is more appropriately dealt with by one of the constituent councils or by some other organisation or in some other way and will not duplicate the work of existing bodies or agencies.
 - Take into account the resources available to support that programme and avoid establishing priorities for which the costs exceed the likely benefits.
 - Avoid initiating enquiries at a time, or in a manner which disrupts the effective and efficient operation of the Authority, or unnecessarily delays the conduct of its business.
- 1.4. Taking the above into account, the Committee is invited to consider and agree the proposed work programme for the year ahead.

2. Formulating the proposed work programme

- 2.1. Online workshops were held with the committee members on 8 and 12 June 2020. In formulating the proposed work programme, reference was made to the principles set out in the statutory guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities, the NTCA's Constitution and senior officers within the NTCA.
- 2.2. The impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on everyone's daily lives and the ability to make plans is inescapable. This proposed work programme is very much a reflection of what the committee would like to do in the year ahead at this moment in time. It is acknowledged that a subject or matter, currently unthought of, might require the committee's attention during the year and will be added to the work programme. The committee will be mindful of its ability to, and the process for, calling extraordinary meetings and adding urgent items of business to meeting agendas. The importance of being flexible was a running theme throughout the discussions.
- 2.3. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomes its duty under the Public Sector Equality Duty and when undertaking scrutiny of a particular topic in the year ahead will look to see that any policy/event/decision eliminates discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advances equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and fosters good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and also considers the implications for people from different socio-economic backgrounds/low pay as a protected characteristic.

3. Proposed work programme

- 3.1. Attached at appendix 1 is a proposed agenda for each of the meetings scheduled for the year. As stated above, agreeing these proposals now does not prevent items being moved to a more suitable meeting or additional items being added as the need arises during the year; it provides a framework for the work of the committee for the year ahead.
- 3.2. It is proposed that each meeting will have an update on the Covid-19 response and recovery work which will provide an overview of the impact of the pandemic on the economy in the region and the work being done across the many sectors impacted by the pandemic, including education, businesses, the arts, culture, sport and leisure and tourism. The Mayor has agreed to attend the first meeting of the year and it is proposed to invite each Cabinet member to a meeting to provide the general update and also to answer questions on the work of their own portfolio area.
- 3.3. The members were mindful that, whilst the response and recovery is vital, there are other roles and responsibilities of the NTCA and these have also been included. Further devolution, whilst not specifically mentioned in the proposed work programme, is a matter over which the committee will keep a watching brief. Where a proposal or new development requires the committee's attention, an item will added to the work programme.
- 3.4. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has an important role in the budget setting process and is required by the Budget and Policy Framework to receive initial proposals and revised proposals from the Mayor and Cabinet. The timetable for the budget setting process will be presented to the committee in October with initial budget proposals at the December 2020 meeting. A Budget Workshop is proposed in January and a report setting out the committee's recommendations will be submitted to the January Cabinet meeting.

4. Work outside of formal committee meetings

- 4.1. It is proposed that the feasibility of holding two 'Scrutiny in a Day' sessions is examined; one to be on the work of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector and the other for young people. Both to be related to the impact of Covid-19 on these groups. The intention would be to hold these sessions in late summer for any subsequent report to be submitted to the October meeting for consideration.
- 4.2. The regular meetings between the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee and the Mayor will continue, with the committee receiving a summary of matters discussed through their monthly updates.

5. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed work programme for the NTCA's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6. Background papers

- [North of Tyne Combined Authority Constitution](#)
- [Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities](#)

7. Contact Officers

Elizabeth Kerr, Policy and Scrutiny Officer

Tel: (0191) 277 7566 email: elizabeth.kerr@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

Proposed NTCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2020/2021

30 June

1. Covid-19 NTCA response and recovery plans
2. Mayoral update – first year in office
3. North East LEP Governance
4. Agreement of Work Programme 2020/21

13 October

1. Covid-19 NTCA response and recovery plans - Employability and Inclusion & Education Improvement
2. AEB Update
3. Schools and Education Update
4. Communications Strategy
5. Year End 2019/20 Budget Monitoring
6. Q1 Budget Monitoring
7. 6-month Review of 2020-21 Budget and budget setting process

8 December

1. Covid-19 NTCA response and recovery plans – Economic Growth and Business Competitiveness
2. Initial Budget proposals
3. Q2 Budget Monitoring

12 January Budget Workshop

9 February

1. Covid-19 NTCA response and recovery plans – Place and Productivity
2. Q3 Budget Monitoring

23 March

1. Covid-19 NTCA response and recovery plans – Housing & Land
2. Scrutiny Annual Report
3. Delegated decision and decisions not subject to call-in for year
4. Annual review of governance arrangements

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