

## Leadership Board

Monday 14 September 2020 at 2.00pm

Meeting to be held virtually via Microsoft Teams

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## AGENDA

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### Page No

1. **Apologies for Absence (Members)**

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 28 July 2020** 1-4

For approval as a correct record

4. **Announcements from the Chair**

5. **Governance Arrangements** 5-8

6. **Growth Fund** 9-13

7. **Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 3 November 2020 at 2.00pm



## North East Combined Authority, Leadership Board

## Agenda Item 3

28 July 2020

(2.00pm - 3.00pm)

Meeting held virtually via Microsoft Teams

### Present:

**Councillors:** I Malcolm (Chair), M Gannon, G Miller

**Officers:** Patrick Melia (Chief Executive, Sunderland), Sheena Ramsey (Chief Executive, Gateshead), Terry Collins (Chief Executive, Durham), Nicola Robason (Deputy Monitoring Officer, NECA), John Hewitt (Chief Finance Officer, NECA), Vince Taylor (Economic Lead Officer, NECA), George Mansbridge (Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment, South Tyneside), Amanda Healy (Director of Public Health, Durham), Gavin Armstrong (Policy and Scrutiny Officer, NECA), Jonathan Lunness (Strategy and Democratic Services Assistant, NECA), Karen Connolly (Strategy and Democratic Services Assistant, South Tyneside)

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (MEMBERS)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Henig, Cllr Marshall, Martin Swales and Gillian Hall.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 03 MARCH 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 03 March 2020 were approved as a correct record.

### 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair informed Members that this meeting was the first NECA Leadership Board to be held virtually. It was noted that the meeting was being livestreamed via YouTube.

The Chair paid tribute to the way in which local government has responded to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The importance of social distancing and continuing to thoroughly wash hands was highlighted by the Chair.

## **5. NECA GOVERNANCE UPDATE**

Submitted: Report of the NECA Deputy Monitoring Officer (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an update on the governance arrangements for the North East Combined Authority in regards the impact of Covid-19.

The report informed Members on the provisions of emergency legislation from the Government which enable local authorities and combined authorities to continue their vital work. It was noted that Members had agreed to postpone the Annual Meeting of NECA until such a time that all constituent authorities have held their own Annual Meetings. Members noted that current NECA appointments will roll over until next Annual Meeting is held.

### **RESOLVED That:**

- i. the report be noted.

## **6. COVID-19 UPDATE**

Submitted: Report of the Director of Public Health, Durham County Council (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an update on the effects of Covid-19 in the NECA area. Members received a presentation outlining key statistics, a timeline of developments, local outbreak plans and key issues during the pandemic to date.

The Chair noted that there had recently been a meeting of Chairs of Health and Wellbeing Boards coordinated by the LGA. It was noted that Local Authorities face similar challenges locally, but that the volunteer sector has responded well and will hopefully continue that good work going forwards.

The Chair thanked Amanda Healy for the report and presentation, as well as all those involved in the coordination and response.

### **RESOLVED That:**

- i. the report and presentation be noted.

## **7. COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY UPDATE**

Submitted: Report of Patrick Melia, Chief Executive of Sunderland City Council (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an update on the economic recovery taking place across the NECA and NELEP areas. Members received a presentation delivered by Vince Taylor on the analysis, plans and structures put in place and the implications for the NECA area.

The presentation covered the local impact so far, the structures for the coordination and response, announcements from Government and also the proposed recovery package being developed for the region.

The Chair noted the positive way in which the region has come together to respond to the crisis. It was noted that the NECA region and local authorities should have 'shovel-ready' schemes ready in case of any government underspend where money could be allocated. Concern over the potential for new youth unemployment was noted, including access to skills training and good quality jobs.

The Chair and Members thanked Vince Taylor and Patrick Melia for the report and presentation, as well as the other Officers involved in the work.

**RESOLVED That:**

- i. the report and presentation be noted.

**8. BUDGET PROCESS AND TIMETABLE 2021/22**

Submitted: Report of the NECA Chief Finance Officer (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

Members considered the report which set out the process and timetable for the preparation, consultation and approval of the 2021/22 budget and indicative three-year medium-term financial strategy for NECA.

Members noted that Appendix 1 contained all dates for the Budget Timetable for 2020/21.

The Chair thanked John Hewitt for the report.

**RESOLVED That:**

- i. the report and timetable be noted.

**9. 2019/20 OUTTURN AND UPDATE ON 2020/21 FORECAST**

Submitted: Report of the NECA Chief Finance Officer (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

Members considered the report which provided an update on the 2019/20 outturn for the NECA Corporate budget and an update on the forecast for 2020/21, based on the position to the end of June 2020.

Members noted that the 2019/20 outturn and 2020/21 forecast are in a positive position with no problems anticipated. It was noted that Appendix 1 of the report contained the

2019/20 Outturn and Update on 2020/21 Forecast for Transport Budgets which was presented to the Joint Transport Committee on 14 July 2020.

The Chair thanked John Hewitt for the report.

**RESOLVED That:**

- i. the report be noted.

**10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 14 September 2020 at 2.00pm.

## **Leadership Board**

Agenda Item 5

**Date:** 14 September 2020

**Subject:** Governance Arrangements

**Report of:** Deputy Monitoring Officer of the North East Combined Authority

### **Executive Summary**

This report proposes a change to the membership of the Joint Transport Committee and the NECA Audit and Standards Committee.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the proposed change to the membership of the Joint Transport Committee and the NECA Audit and Standards Committee be approved.

## **1. Background Information**

- 1.1 Northumberland County Council and Sunderland City would like to make an amendment to their appointments made to the Joint Transport Committee.
- 1.2 The appointments which went to the 2019 Annual meeting of the NECA Leadership Board included, for Sunderland City Council, Councillor Michael Mordey as substitute Member for Joint Transport Committee.
- 1.3 The appointments which went to the 2019 Annual meeting of the NECA Leadership Board included, for Northumberland County Council, Councillor Peter Jackson as Member for Joint Transport Committee.
- 1.4 The appointments which went to the 2019 Annual meeting of the NECA Leadership Board included, for Northumberland County Council, Councillor Wayne Daley as substitute Member for Joint Transport Committee.
- 1.5 The appointments which went to the 2019 Annual meeting of the NECA Leadership Board included, for Gateshead City Council, Councillor John McClurey as substitute Member for NECA Audit and Standards Committee.
- 1.6 Councillor Paul Stewart is the person Sunderland City Council wishes to nominate for the Joint Transport Committee.
- 1.7 The Councillors Northumberland County Council wishes to nominate for the Joint Transport Committee are to follow their appointment of Leader and Deputy Leader.
- 1.8 Councillor Ron Beadle is the person Gateshead City Council wishes to nominate for the NECA Audit and Standards Committee.

## **2. Proposed Change**

- 2.1 For Northumberland County Council, the Councillors to be proposed for the Member of the Joint Transport Committee and substitute of the Joint Transport Committee are to follow.



- 2.2 For Sunderland City Council, it is proposed that Councillor Paul Stewart to replace Councillor Michael Mordey as substitute on the Joint Transport Committee.
- 2.3 For Gateshead City Council, it is proposed that Councillor Ron Beadle to replace Councillor John McClurey as member on the NECA Audit and Standards Committee.

### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 It is Recommended that the proposed changes to the membership of the Joint Transport Committee be approved.

### **4. Proposals**

- 4.1 The Leadership Board is agree the recommendation contained in this report.

### **5. Reasons for the Proposals**

- 5.1 The proposal contained in this report will ensure the NECA and Joint Transport Committee governance structures are kept up to date.

### **6. Alternative Options Available**

- 6.1 There are no alternative options submitted for consideration.

### **7. Financial and Other Resources Implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

### **8. Legal Implications**

- 8.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report other than amendments to the NECA governance structure.

### **9. Key Risks**

- 9.1 There are no risks arising as a result of the proposals.

### **10. Equality and Diversity**

10.1 There are no specific equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

## **11. Appendices**

11.1 None

## **12. Contact Officers**

12.1 Nicola Robason, NECA Deputy Monitoring Officer, South Tyneside Council  
E-mail: Nicola.robason@southtyneside.gov.uk Tel: 0191 424 7969

## **13. Sign off**

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

## **14 Glossary**

- NECA - North East Combined Authority

## **Leadership Board**

Agenda Item 6

**Date:** 14 September 2020

**Subject:** The Growth Fund

**Report of:** Economic Development and Digital Thematic Lead

### **Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is to update the Leadership Board on the progress of The Growth Fund European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding application.

### **Recommendations**

The Leadership Board is recommended to receive and note the report

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### 1. Background Information

- 1.1 The North East LEP area was allocated £437m through the 2014-2020 European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) programme. The programme includes European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) to support the key growth priorities of innovation, research and development, support for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), low carbon, skills, employment and social inclusion.
- 1.2 The NECA authorities have worked together to develop and submit a funding application for ERDF to deliver The Growth Fund SME grant project. The Growth Fund project is based on the ERDF funded model already delivered in County Durham.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have approved in principle up to £4,495,715 of funding from the ERDF Programme. The Growth Fund project will provide financial incentives and a package of support to help: -

- Indigenous businesses located in Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland, especially those in priority sectors, wishing to expand their operations.
- Inward investors (SMEs) looking to locate new operations in Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland, to support the objective of attracting new foreign direct investment into England.

The Growth Fund project has been developed in-line with the successful ERDF funded SME grant funding model already delivered in County Durham.

### 2. Proposals

- 2.1 The Growth Fund will be delivered over a 3 year period to create employment opportunities and stimulate economic growth. The project will deliver a range of business support and discretionary grants that will leverage up to £10.5m of private sector investment and create of 252 new jobs in the NECA area.
- 2.2 The grant funds will support eligible expenditure including land and buildings, premises lease costs, premises fit-out costs, plant, machinery and other capital

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equipment and revenue costs directly associated with a capital investment where eligible under ERDF rules. It is expected that the project will also support the development of new products and services, facilitating deeper and global market penetration.

### 3. Reasons for the Proposals

- 3.1 The businesses receiving support to grow or locate will be expected to work with the local authority areas to ensure the jobs created are secured by unemployed residents or those looking to advance their careers within the NECA area.

### 4. Alternative Options Available

- 4.1 There are no alternative options associated with this report

### 5. Next Steps and Timetable for Implementation

- 5.1 The project will run for 3 years between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. A further update on the progress of the project will be provided to the Board at subsequent meetings.

### 6. Potential Impact on Objectives

- 6.1 The Growth Fund project support the priorities set out in the Strategic Economic Plan through the facilitation of the creation of 252 jobs for local residents.

### 7. Financial and Other Resources Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial or other resource implications associated with this report.

### 8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### 9. Key Risks

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9.1 There are no specific risk management issues arising from this report.

### **10. Equality and Diversity**

10.1 There are no specific equality and diversity issues arising from this report.

### **11. Crime and Disorder**

11.1 There are no specific crime and disorder issues arising from this report.

### **12. Consultation/Engagement**

12.1 There are no specific consultation and engagement issues arising from this report.

### **13. Other Impact of the Proposals**

13.1 There are no further impacts arising from the proposals.

### **14. Appendices**

14.1 None.

### **15. Background Papers**

15.1 None.

### **16. Contact Officers**

16.1 John Scott, Acting Head of Economic Growth, South Tyneside Council  
E-mail: [john.scott@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:john.scott@southtyneside.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 0191 519 7204

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### 17. Sign off

- 17.1
  - Head of Paid Service: ✓
  - Monitoring Officer: ✓
  - Chief Finance Officer: ✓

### 18. Glossary

- 18.1 None