

## **Cabinet**

30 January 2024

(2.05 - 2.30 pm)

Meeting held: Committee Room, North Tyneside Council, The Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY. This meeting was also streamed live on YouTube.

## **Minutes**

### **Present:**

Chair: Mayor J Driscoll

Councillors C Johnson, K Kilgour, G Sanderson, R Wearmouth, Dame Mayor N Redfearn and Ms L Winskell

Also present: Ms L Goodwin, Mayoral Ambassador for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector

### **53 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor N Kemp.

### **54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **55 ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Mayor spoke about the good understanding of the financial pressures on residents and councils of the North of Tyne, and confirmed that he had not proposed to add the Mayoral Precept onto the council tax, continuing the approach of the previous years as well as taking this position into the first year of the incoming North East Mayoral Combined Authority.

The Mayor also spoke about the importance of continuing to lobby the government for adequate funding for local authorities in the North East.

### **56 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 November 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## 57 **NTCA INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE AND FUNDING APPROVALS**

Submitted: A report of Head of Strategy and Innovation (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on progress with the North of Tyne Investment Fund, Brownfield Housing Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund programmes, set out information on the work undertaken to co-design the North East Investment Zone and sought associated approvals.

The report was introduced by Councillor C Johnson, Cabinet Member for Investment and Resources.

The Cabinet welcomed the report. Thanks were offered to all teams involved in this work.

The combined authority was thanked for the consideration it gave to small organisations within the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector.

### **RESOLVED** – That the Cabinet:

- i. Noted progress to date on the Investment Fund, UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Brownfield Housing Fund (BHF) programmes, achievement of key milestones and ongoing project development work, particularly in respect of new job creation for residents as a direct result of the NTCA investments.
- ii. Noted that the NTCA would act as accountable body for a programme of capital investment in regeneration projects secured as a part of devolution negotiations. The first three projects had now been agreed by the Chief Executive.
- iii. Noted that the Chief Executive would make final approvals and associated decisions relating to implementation, in accordance with existing delegations, for the £27.8m of project funding described in the report, using Investment Fund, UKSPF, Brownfield Housing and NEMCA devolution resources.
- iv. Noted the advanced stage of development achieved in relation to the North East Investment Zone proposition and delegated approval to the Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive for the submission of final documentation to Government.
- v. Agreed that the North of Tyne Combined Authority should act as accountable body for the North East Investment Zone, once it was established in April 2024.
- vi. Noted that Northumberland County Council, Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council Cabinets would be asked to approve proposals around Investment Zone business rate retention sites.

- vii. Noted the proposals in the report around business rates retention and delegated authority to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to prepare and complete an agreement with Northumberland County Council, Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council to operationalise the Investment Zone Business Rates Reinvestment Strategy.

## 58 **NTCA Q3 BUDGET MONITOR REPORT**

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

The Cabinet considered the latest financial position monitoring report. The report was introduced by J Gillespie, Director of Finance.

**RESOLVED** – That the Cabinet:

- i. Noted the 2023/24 forecast budget monitoring position for the Combined Authority as set out in Section 2 Corporate Budget, Section 4 Investment Fund (including capital spend), Section 5 Creative Growth Programme, Section 6 UK Social Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), including Multiply and Rural England Prosperity Fund, Section 7 Brownfield Housing Fund, Section 8 Adult Education Budget (AEB), Section 9 and 10 Bootcamps Wave 3 and 4 and Section 12 Reserves position.
- ii. Approved the issuing of “in-year growth” awards totalling £1.366m for further AEB provision during the Academic Year 2023-24 as set out in paragraph 8.7 of the report.
- iii. Approved the issue of “letters of comfort” to identified Grant Providers setting out their indicative funding allocations for delivery of the devolved AEB from 1st August 2024. The letters of comfort would precede the issue of Grant Agreements to these providers once NEMCA was established as set out in section 11 of the report.
- iv. Approved the issue of Flexible Adult Skills Framework Agreements to the organisations who submitted a successful tender to the procurement of the Framework in November 2023 as set out in section 11 of the report.
- v. Authorised the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and portfolio holder for Education, Inclusion and Skills, to approve any subsequent grant agreements and /or call-off contracts procured from the Flexible Adult Skills Framework for the delivery of skills programmes from 1st April 2024 as set out in section 11 of the report.

## 59 **NORTH EAST MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY 2025-2029 - DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN, DRAFT BUDGET AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN PROPOSALS**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which set out, and sought approval for, the North East Mayoral Combined Authority 2025-2029 Draft Corporate Plan, Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan Proposals. The report was introduced by J Gillespie, Director of Finance.

**RESOLVED** – That the Cabinet:

- i. Agreed the draft NEMCA Corporate Budget for 2024/25 as set out in section 3 of the report.
- ii. Agreed the overarching delivery budgets as set out in section 4 of the report.
- iii. Noted the Transport levies were agreed by the North East Joint Transport Committee on the 16 January 2024 and would be issued by the Combined Authorities preceding the commencement of the financial year in respect of which they are to be issued, in line with the Transport Levying Bodies Regulations
- iv. Noted the reserves position as set out in section 11 of the report, which would be kept under review while consideration of NEMCA developments and additional information became available about the financial risks facing the authority and the proposed arrangements for managing those risks.
- v. Noted that no comments or recommendations had been made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees as set out in section I of the report.

## 60 **NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT FUNDING DECISIONS UPDATE**

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

The Cabinet considered the update report. The report was introduced by J Gillespie, Director of Finance.

**RESOLVED** – That the Cabinet noted the report which provided information on the work and funding decisions of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP) since the previous update on 26 September 2023.

## 61 **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 12 March 2024 at 2pm.

## 62 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** – That by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 press and public were excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the duration of consideration of agenda items 11 (North East Local Enterprise Partnership Project Funding Decisions Update - Appendix A) and 12 (North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Transition), because exempt

information was likely to be disclosed and the public interest test against disclosure was satisfied.