

Cabinet

28 November 2023

(2.03 - 2.45 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 A Hay, C Johnson, K Kilgour, G Renner-Thompson and G Sanderson and Ms L Winkell

42 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Dame Mayor Redfearn and Councillors N Kemp and R Wearmouth.

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

44 ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There were no announcements.

45 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 September 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

46 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2023

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 7 November 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

47 **DEVOLVED ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET ANNUAL UPDATE**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on the performance of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) in the academic year 2022-23 and sought endorsement of the North of Tyne Combined Authority's (NTCA's) approach to managing AEB in the academic year 2023-24. The report was introduced by Councillor K Kilgour, the Cabinet member for education, inclusion and skills.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and the adult education opportunities that had been created for the NTCA residents. Members commented on the importance of this work and welcomed the priorities for the forthcoming academic year. Thanks were offered to everyone involved in this work.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. the performance of the devolved Adult Education Budget in the Academic Year 2022-23 be noted; and
- ii. the approach to managing the devolved Adult Education Budget in Academic Year 2023-24 be endorsed.

48 **SKILLS BOOTCAMPS**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on the performance of Skills Bootcamps and a proposal to the Department for Education (DfE) regarding the delivery of Skills Bootcamps in the financial year 2024-25; and sought endorsement for the North of Tyne Combined Authority's (NTCA's) approach to managing Skills Bootcamps for the remainder of the financial year 2023-24. The report was introduced by Councillor K Kilgour, the Cabinet member for education, inclusion and skills.

The Cabinet welcomed the report. Thanks were offered to everyone who was involved in this work.

It was noted that all achievements to date were made possible through working in partnerships, including with the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NE LEP).

Amongst other matter noted during the ensuing discussion were the following:

- the importance of this work;
- the importance of tackling inequality;
- the value of working in meaningful partnerships, and the outcomes achieved as a result;
- the high value for money achieved;
- the importance of benchmarking;

- the importance of learning lessons from other local authorities, especially from those that had started similar work earlier;
- the close relationship between NTCA and DfE; and
- positive feedback that had been received from DfE.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. the performance of NTCA funded Skills Bootcamps to date be noted; and
- ii. the approach to managing Skills Bootcamps for the remainder of the financial year 2023-24 be endorsed.

49 **INVESTMENT FUND AND FUNDING APPROVALS UPDATE**

Submitted: A report of the 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 and UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programmes and sought further funding approvals for the delivery on previously agreed strategic priorities. The report was introduced by Councillor C Johnson, the Cabinet member for investment and resources.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and the achievements to date, which had a substantial, positive impact on the region. The new Northumberland Line was highlighted as one of the most successful examples of this work.

Thanks were put on record to all those involved in this area of work, especially for achieving progress despite the challenging timetables.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The progress to date on the Investment Fund and UKSPF programmes, achievement of key milestones and ongoing project development work, particularly in respect of the creation of new jobs for residents as a direct result of the NTCA investments be noted; and
- ii. the Cabinet noted that the Chief Executive would make final approvals and associated decisions relating to implementation, in accordance with existing delegations, for the £3.5m of project funding described in the report, using Investment Fund and UKSPF resources.

50 **NTCA Q2 2023-24 BUDGET MONITOR REPORT**

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

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

RESOLVED – That the 2023/24 forecast budget monitor position for the Combined Authority as set out in Section 2 thought to Section 11 of the report, and the Treasury Management Mid-year Review set out at Appendix A of the report, be noted.

51 **NORTH EAST MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY 2025-2029 INITIAL DRAFT BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN PROPOSALS**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which proposed, and sought approval for, a single corporate plan and budget that were necessary for the commencement of the incoming North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA). The report was introduced by J Gillespie, the Director of Finance.

It was noted that approval for the proposed budget and corporate plan was sought from the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA), North East Combined Authority (NECA) and Joint Transport Committee (JTC), so that a consultation process can commence.

Amongst the comments made by the Cabinet members and points clarified by officers during the ensuing discussion were the following:

- the timescales involved in preparing the proposed budget and the challenges associated with them, the consultation process with the constituent partners that had been held to date; assurances about further consultation process to take place; and the importance of a degree of flexibility as part of the process to set up a corporate plan and budget for the incoming combined authority;
- the consultation undertaken to date on the new devolution deal and the importance of a continued, effective, timely and comprehensive consultation with the constituent bodies on the related proposals; and confirmation that engagement would continue with all partners;
- the positive working relationships between the NE LEP and chief officers of NTCA;
- the importance of devising an effective process, as part of NEMCA, for an effective, time appropriate and all-encompassing consultation process with all constituent partners on various key matters, including corporate plans and budget proposals;
- the forthcoming opportunity for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees of NECA and NTCA to scrutinise the proposals and the consultation;
- the challenges that were associated with consulting and engaging with the public, particularly within the context of public's understanding of the combined authority's role and functions;

- the composition of the Cost of Capital element of the proposals, which was mostly associated with the Tyne Tunnels' costs of NECA;
- the clarification of the position regarding the constituent local authorities' contributions to the Transport North East (TNE), and the proposals to keep these static initially;
- the clarification on how TNE was generally funded;
- the process for agreeing the Transport levies;
- the healthy financial position of NTCA, including the lack of debt, and its readiness for the handover;
- the inclusion of NE LEP's valuable assets and reserves in the proposed budget for NEMCA; and
- the next steps of the consultation on the proposals.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. Agreement be given to the draft NEMCA Corporate Budget for 2024/25 as set out in section 3 of the report, which would then be subject to consultation with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- ii. Agreement be given to the overarching delivery budgets as set out in section 4 of the report, which would then be subject to consultation with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- iii. The Cabinet noted that the Transport levies would be agreed by the North East Joint Transport Committee on the 16 January 2024 and issued by the Combined Authorities preceding the commencement of the financial year in respect of which they were to be issued, in line with the Transport Levying Bodies Regulations.
- iv. The reserves position as set out in section 5 of the report be noted, 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.

52 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 30 January 2024, at 2pm.