

**Cabinet  
Annual Meeting**

6 June 2023

(2.00 - 2.50 pm)

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

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Chair: Mayor J Driscoll

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

**Also:** Councillor C Seymour, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members: An apology for absence was received from Councillor R Wearmouth.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

There were no announcements.

**4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 March 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**5 APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET, COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which: set out the membership of Cabinet; invited the Mayor to appoint a Deputy Mayor; and sought approval of the proposed appointments to the committees of the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) and other bodies.

J Softly, the Monitoring Officer introduced the report and highlighted the updates that had been received following the publication of the report. The Cabinet accepted the updates.

**RESOLVED** – That the Cabinet:

- i. noted the Cabinet membership set out at Appendix 1(a) of the report and amended at the meeting, following the receipts of revised appointments from North Tyneside Council, replacing Councillor Janet Hunter with Councillor Peter Earley as a Member;
- ii. noted that the Mayor appointed (at this meeting) Dame Mayor Norma Redfearn, a Cabinet member, as Deputy Mayor;
- iii. agreed the allocation of Cabinet portfolios set out at Appendix 1(b) of the report and the schedule of meetings for the municipal year 2023/24 set out at Appendix 2 of the report;
- iv. agreed the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Standards Committee as set out in Appendix 3 and amended at the meeting, following the receipts of revised appointments from North Tyneside Council, replacing Councillor Peter Earley with Councillor Louise Marshall, as a Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and replacing Councillor Louise Marshall with Councillor Matthew Thirlaway, as a Substitute Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- v. agreed to delegate the appointment of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- vi. agreed the appointment of David Willis OBE as the Chair and independent co-opted member of Audit and Standards Committee;
- vii. agreed to waive the three year term of office restriction in the terms of reference of the Inclusive Economy Board to allow those reaching the end of their three year term to continue to serve for a further year, as set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report;
- viii. agreed the membership of the Housing and Land Board, the Inclusive Economy Board and the Strategic Partnership Group as set out in appendix 4 of the report;
- ix. agreed the appointment of members and substitute members to the Joint Transport Committee and the Tyne and Wear Sub-committee as set out in paragraph 6 of the report;

- x. agreed the appointment of members and substitute members to the board of Transport for the North (TfN) and TfN's Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in paragraph 7 of the report;
- xi. agreed the appointment of members to the North East Local Enterprise Partnership Board and Panels as set out in in paragraph 8 of the report; and
- xii. approved the appointment of Lisa Goodwin as Mayoral Ambassador for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector for 2023/24 as set out in paragraph 9 of the report.

## 6 **SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW**

Submitted: A report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which set out information on the work of NTCA's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the municipal year 2022/2023. The report was introduced by Councillor Seymour, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. She offered thanks to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's members and officers for their work and support.

The Cabinet welcomed the report. Thanks were offered to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Chair, Councillor Seymour, for their work to contribute to better decision-making.

Comments were also made about the difference in the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of a combined authority and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of a council. It was appreciated that, not only the North of Tyne Combined Authority was diverse geographically, it also involved close working relationships with the local enterprise partnership and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

With reference to the urgent delegated decision that had been made in the municipal year 2022/2023, assurances were offered regarding NTCA's robust consultation process for these types of delegated decisions.

**RESOLVED** – That the Cabinet:

- i. Noted the Annual Scrutiny Report; and
- ii. Noted that the use of the urgent decision power had been used once in the 2022/23 municipal year.

## 7 **NORTH EAST DEVOLUTION - NEXT STEPS**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on progress on the proposed creation of a new mayoral combined authority for the North East region

and sought agreement from the Mayor and the Cabinet to support these proposals, which included the abolition of the existing combined authorities in the region (NTCA and NECA) to allow the new combined authority to come into existence.

The Cabinet welcomed the progress achieved. Comments were made on behalf of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP) about the extent of benefits of achieving the North East devolution and the level of risk associated with the option of not going ahead.

Assurances were offered regarding the continuation of NTCA's programmes that had been committed to and the employment of staff as per the current position. The proposed abolition of the two existing combined authorities in the North East region and the creation of a new mayoral combined authority instead, as part of the new devolution deal, was more about expansion, wider joint working and new opportunities.

Tribute was paid and thanks put on record to the teams of the combined authorities, who enabled progress.

**RESOLVED** – That the Mayor and Cabinet:

- i. noted the contents of the report and the attached consultation report;
- ii. endorsed the proposals to establish a new mayoral combined authority for the North East region (to be known as the North East Mayoral Combined Authority or NEMCA);
- iii. agreed that the North of Tyne Combined Authority be abolished as a necessary step to allow NEMCA to be brought into existence;
- iv. agreed to consent to the order to abolish NTCA and NECA and create NEMCA; and
- v. authorised the Chief Executive to take such steps as are required to facilitate the creation of NEMCA.

## 8 **NTCA CORPORATE PLAN: WORKING TOGETHER**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which set out NTCA's updated Corporate Plan for the municipal year 2023/2024; and invited its acknowledgement and endorsement, including regarding the proposed ambitions and delivery priorities.

H Kippin, the Chief Executive, introduced the report and asked for thanks to be put on record to all teams across the constituent councils, universities, businesses and other partners, who worked in collaboration with NTCA.

The Cabinet welcomed the achievements.

**RESOLVED** – That the Cabinet acknowledged and endorsed the Corporate Plan for the municipal year 2023-2024, its ambitions and delivery priorities.

## 9 **EQUALITY OBJECTIVES UPDATE**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which provided the second annual update on NTCA's performance against its equality objectives. The report was introduced by Councillor Kilgour, the Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Skills.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and the work undertaken. Councillor Kilgour and officers were congratulated on the progress achieved.

**RESOLVED** – That the Cabinet accepted the amendments to the Equalities and Diversity Policy (Appendix A to the report) and noted the progress made on NTCA's Equality Objectives and wider equality and diversity ambitions.

## 10 **INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE AND FUNDING APPROVALS**

Submitted: A report of the Chief Economist (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 the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programmes and sought associated approvals. The report was introduced by Councillor Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Investment and Resources.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and the cross-party, joint approach to work that enabled greater achievements.

In discussion, comments were made about:

- the value of the investment into the Northumberland train line, including its economic and social benefits for the wider region;
- the value of the collective approach to working with partners in the region, including the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP), universities and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) section; and the importance of building on the work that had been led on by the North East LEP, including on the Economic Strategic Plan for the region;
- the value of the achievements to date, which were enabled by the creation of the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA); and
- in the context of devolution, NTCA being a successful example of what could be achieved.

**RESOLVED** – That the Cabinet:

- i. Noted progress to date on the Investment Fund and UKSPF, 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; and
- ii. Authorised the Chief Executive to make final approvals and associated decisions relating to implementation, in accordance with existing delegations, for £5,000,000 of NTCA's Investment Fund for the Newsham Road Bridge; and £13,353,390 of project approvals from the NTCA's Shared Prosperity Fund allocation.

## 11 **2022/2023 OUTTURN POSITION**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which advised it on the financial year 2022/2023 outturn position (subject to external audit) of the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA), including: the Corporate Fund, Investment Fund; Adult Education Budget; and Brownfield Housing Fund.

The report also included the outturn position for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP) and Invest North East England. The report was introduced by J Gillespie, the Director of Finance.

**RESOLVED** – That the Cabinet noted the following:

A. The Outturn position for the financial year 2022/2023 in respect of the following:

- i. Corporate Fund as set out in section 2 of the report;
- ii. Investment Fund and Investment Fund Capital Budgets as set out in section 3 of the report;
- iii. Performance against the UKSPF and Multiply as set out in section 4 of the report;
- iv. Performance against the Brownfield Housing Capital Budget as set out in section 5 of the report;
- v. Performance against the Adult Education Budget as set out in section 6 of the report;
- vi. Performance against Bootcamp Wave 3 funding as set out in section 7 of the report;
- vii. The position on Reserves as set out in section 8 of the report.
- viii. The Accountable Body Budget Outturn position and funding position as set out in section 9 of the report;
- ix. The Combined Authority's Treasury Management performance as set out in section 10 of the report;
- x. The North East LEP 2022/2023 Outturn position and 2023/2024 Outline Budget position as detailed in Appendix A of the report; and
- xi. The Invest North East England 2022/2023 Outturn position and 2023/2024 Outline Budget position as detailed in Appendix B of the report;

And

B. The delay in the publication of the 2022-23 Draft Statement of Accounts and that the Chief Finance Officer, Janice Gillespie, published a statement on the NTCA website on 31 May 2023 giving the reason for the delay in publishing the 2022/2023 Statement of Accounts (see section 1.5 of the report).

## 12 **NTCA STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which presented the following:

- The final 2020/2021 Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021, including the Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement. The report covered the regulations under which the Statement of Accounts were prepared and detailed the following: the items included within the Statement of Accounts; and the Audit Completion Report from the external Auditors Mazars; and
- Following an update to Cabinet in March 2023, a further update on the progress of the external Audit of the 2021-2022 Statement of Accounts.

J Gillespie, the Director of Finance, introduced the report.

Regarding the financial year 2021/2022, J Gillespie explained that, in light of the challenges and impacts arising from the delays experienced in relation to the completion of pension verification data for 2021/2022, the Cabinet was invited to approve an additional recommendation to authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Mayor, to agree any final amendments or changes to the NTCA 2021/2022 Statement of Accounts and to approve the Accounts and the AGS for publication. The Cabinet agreed to add this recommendation.

**RESOLVED** – That the Cabinet:

- i. Noted the NTCA 2020/21 Audit Completion Report 2020/21 (Appendix 1 of the report);
- ii. Noted the NTCA Follow up letter to the Audit Completion Report 2020/21 (Appendix 2 of the report);
- iii. Noted the Follow up Letter to the Audit Completion Report 2020/21 Further Letter of 13 April 2023 (Appendix 3 of the report);
- iv. Approved the NTCA 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 4 of the report);
- v. Approved the NTCA 2020/21 Audited Statement of Accounts including the Narrative Report in line with Audit and Accounting Regulations 2015 as presented. (Appendix 5 of the report); and

- vi. Authorised the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Mayor, to agree any final amendments or changes to the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) 2021-22 Statement of Accounts and to approve the Accounts and AGS for publication.

**13 NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP - FUNDING DECISIONS UPDATE**

Submitted: A report of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership's Chief Executive (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The report provided an update on the work and decisions of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP). The report was introduced by J Gillespie, NTCA's 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) over the last four months.

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

Tuesday, 25 July 2023 at 2pm.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Cabinet, thanked everyone for their work, particularly those who had been working to enable the Annual Meeting to take place.

**15 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There was no exclusion of press and public.

**16 NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP - FUNDING DECISIONS UPDATE - APPENDICES**

Submitted: Appendices for the agenda item 13: North East Local Enterprise Partnership - Funding Decisions Update (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes.)

This agenda item was not discussed at the meeting.