

Cabinet

26 September 2023

(2.00 - 2.15 pm)

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

Minutes

Present:

Mayor J Driscoll (Chair)

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

29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no announcements.

32 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 July 2023 were approved as a correct record.

33 NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP - PROJECT FUNDING DECISIONS UPDATE

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

The report was introduced by J Gillespie, NTCA Director of Finance, as NTCA is the accountable body for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP). The report provided an update to the Cabinet on the work of the North East LEP on project funding decisions made since the last meeting of Cabinet.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet noted the report which provides information on the work and funding decisions of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership since the previous update on 6 June 2023.

34 **INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE AND FUNDING APPROVALS**

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

The report was introduced by Councillor C Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Investment and Resources, who provided a summary of the project funding decisions made since the last meeting of Cabinet.

Councillor Johnson advised Cabinet that good progress was continuing to be made with the Brownfield Housing Programme, with 11 schemes approved and a further two schemes in the pipeline. Councillor Johnson also introduced two new 5G innovation facilities, the first two projects from the 5G and Future Connectivity Programme, in Blyth and in the centre of Newcastle.

Further investment has been made in the Rural Catalyst, the aims of which are to improve the lives and prospects of rural businesses and communities.

It was proposed that the Inward Investment Programme be extended until the creation of the new Combined Authority, in order to continue to support projects.

It was also noted that £275,000 of funding into digital skills had been made through a project developed by Sunderland Software City, which supports residents to work in the sector.

Cabinet was advised that funding is in place to support the detailed design and development of the Energy Central Institute at Blyth, which is set to become a new higher-level skills and innovation facility. In addition, £81,000 funding has been agreed to help people using secondary care mental health services into employment, through a project to be delivered by CNTW.

It was noted that further Shared Prosperity Fund investments, of just under £4m, had also been made.

Councillor Johnson thanked colleagues for their work on development of the projects.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and commended the Combined Authority for the results achieved. The Cabinet acknowledged the projects were great news for businesses and residents across the North of Tyne.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet:

- i. Noted the 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;

- ii. Authorised the Chief Executive to make final approvals and associated decisions relating to implementation, in accordance with existing delegations, for the £9.6m of projects described in the report, using Investment Fund, UKSPF and REPF resources;
- iii. Agreed that the Benwell Dene and North Tyneside Council Social Housing Sites projects be accepted onto the North of Tyne Brownfield Housing Fund Pipeline and be invited to prepare full business cases;
- iv. Delegated responsibility to mobilise and take funding decisions, including the management of contractual and delivery risks, in relation to the NEMCA Devolved Brownfield Housing Funding and Capital Regeneration Funding (NE Devolution) programmes to the Chief Executive in consultation with Investment Panel. And authorised the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer to take all steps necessary to progress these programmes to meet the funding timetables agreed with Government.
- v. Extended the financial end date of NTCA's Inward Investment Fund to May 2024, allowing new commitments to potential investors to be made from the existing budget envelope agreed by Cabinet.

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

Tuesday, 28 November 2023 at 2pm.

36 **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 be excluded from the remainder of the meeting for the duration of the consideration of agenda items 9 and 10 (Confidential Minutes and North East LEP – Project Funding Decisions Update – Appendix A and B) because exempt information was likely to be disclosed and the public interest test against the disclosure was satisfied.

37 **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

The confidential minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 July 2023 were approved as a correct record.

38 **NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP - PROJECT FUNDING DECISIONS UPDATE - APPENDIX A AND APPENDIX B**

Submitted: The confidential appendices A and B for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership – Project Funding Decisions Update report (previously circulated and a copy attached to Official Minutes).

Noted