

Cabinet

20 September 2022

(2.03 - 2.50 pm)

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

Minutes

Present:

Chair: Mayor J Driscoll

Councillors C Johnson, N Kemp, G Renner-Thompson and G Sanderson, Mayor N Redfearn and Ms L Winskell

And also Mr R Fry (Observer)

A MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed by the Cabinet to pay respect to the Queen Elizabeth II.

25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Kilgour and R Wearmouth.

Councillor G Renner-Thompson was welcomed to the meeting.

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There was no declaration of interests.

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

Thanks were placed on record to officers of the three constituent local authorities for their work to put arrangements in place following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the proclamation of the new King, Charles III.

The Mayor also offered thanks to Ms L Winskell, a member of Cabinet and the Chair of North East Local Enterprise Partnership, for her work as a recently appointed Lord-Lieutenant.

28 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 July 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

29 **APPOINTMENT OF MAYORAL AMBASSADOR**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which invited it to confirm the appointment of Ms Lisa Goodwin, the Chief Executive of Connected Voice and the Mayor's nominee for the position of Mayoral Ambassador for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector, following the recent resignation Mr Robin Fry who was now joining the Combined Authority as an employee. The Mayor thanked Mr Fry for his work.

Mr Fry addressed the Cabinet. In his speech, he listed key areas of his involvement and highlighted achievements whilst in the role. Mr Fry offered thanks to the Combined Authority for continued support. He explained that he was now joining the Combined Authority as an employee and was looking forward to working with the organisation in the new role.

RESOLVED – That the appointment of Lisa Goodwin, Chief Executive of Connected Voice, as the Mayoral Ambassador for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector until the NTCA's annual meeting in June 2023, be approved.

30 **AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

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

The Cabinet considered the report which presented the outcome of the work of the Audit and Standards Committee for 2021-2022.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Cabinet, thanked the Audit and Standards Committee members and officers for their work.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

31 **NORTHUMBERLAND LINE ECONOMIC GROWTH CORRIDOR**

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 the Northumberland Line and the Ten Point Plan for the Northumberland Line Economic corridor; and sought approval for the allocation of funding from the NTCA Investment Fund to catalyse investment and accelerate delivery of projects. The report was introduced by Mayor J Driscoll, the Cabinet Member for Social Economy and Communities, and the North Tyneside Council's Mayor N Redfean, the Cabinet Member for Housing, Land and Development.

The Cabinet members welcomed the progress achieved to reintroduce passenger rail services and commended the many benefits that the scheme would bring, both direct and indirect. Comments were also made about the successful cross-party collaboration in the North of Tyne area to make this strategic ambition possible.

Thanks were put on record to all involved in developing and progressing the scheme.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The report be noted;
- ii. The approach for the Northumberland Line Economic Corridor Ten Point Plan be endorsed;
- iii. An allocation of £10m to catalyse and accelerate delivery of the projects identified in the Northumberland Line Economic Corridor Ten Point Plan be agreed;
- iv. The Chief Executive be authorised to approve businesses cases and delivery plans in consultation with Investment Panel and the Mayor; and
- v. The Chief Executive be authorised to finalise the conditions to be attached to funding allocations and the Monitoring Officer be authorised to complete necessary documentation.

32 NORTH OF TYNE DIGITAL: UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

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 the progress of "North of Tyne Digital", the NTCA collaborative approach and investment programme to boost digital connectivity, digital inclusion, skills and support growth of the tech economy. The report was introduced by Mayor J Driscoll, the Cabinet Member for Social Economy and Communities, and Councillor G Renner-Thompson on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Clean Energy and Connectivity.

The Cabinet welcomed the progress being made. In discussion, comments were made about the role and importance of the programme, including its economic and social benefit; opportunities within the programme for unlocking further potential; the importance of improved and consistent connectivity within all parts of the region; the role of pandemic in accentuating and accelerating digitalisation; the welcome

improvement in the affordability of, and access to, the broadband, and the need to promote that improvement; the importance of continued collaboration with partners and stakeholders; and the importance of, and opportunities for, working with the wider region.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The progress in delivery of the North of Tyne Digital Programme and continued development of the narrative and ambition statement for the sector, the early impact from projects on residents and businesses, and the forthcoming fin-tech cluster strategy for the region, be noted.
- ii. The next steps on the 5G and future connectivity programme, which were to launch a call for private sector co-invested propositions to support commercialisation of 5G and low-latency connectivity, be noted.
- iii. Deeper collaboration across the North of Tyne to deliver the shared connectivity vision set out at Appendix 2 of the report be endorsed; and authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and the Mayor, to consider resourcing and governance requirements to support the delivery of the vision.

33 2023-2027 FINANCIAL PLANNING AND BUDGET PROCESS

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

The Cabinet considered the report which outlined the proposed process for the Authority's Financial Planning and Budget process for 2023-24 as part of the proposed framework for the four-years period of 2023-2024 to 2026-2027.

RESOLVED – That the proposed outline 2023-2024 Financial Planning and Budget process, which incorporated the key decision milestones and dates as set out at Appendix A to the report, be approved.

34 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 Programme and sought approval for associated projects. The report was introduced by Councillor C Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Investment and Resources.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and the progress achieved. Thanks were offered to everyone involved in the work on Investment Programme.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The progress to date on the Investment Fund, 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;
- ii. £730,507 of funding for the Good Work Pledge Programme, which would be led by the NTCA, be approved;
- iii. The Chief Executive be authorised to make final approvals, under delegated decision, for the following projects: £2,829,440 of site preparation works at Howdon Yard; £1.5m for the Berwick Culture and Creative Zone; and up to £936,321.34 for the Moorside housing scheme in Newbiggin-by-the-Sea;
- iv. The Director of Finance be authorised to accept grant offers from Government with respect to the Shared Prosperity Fund and DCMS Create Growth Programme on behalf of the Combined Authority, subject to the terms and conditions set out by the grant awarding bodies;
- v. The Chief Executive, be authorised in consultation with the Director of Finance and relevant Cabinet Members, to approve the commissioning approach and subsequent grant agreements and/or contracts associated with the Shared Prosperity Fund. Project approvals should be made with reference to fit with the NTCA SPF Investment Plan, value for money and deliverability; and
- vi. The Chief Executive, be authorised in consultation with the Director of Finance and relevant Cabinet Members, to approve the deployment approach and any subsequent grant agreements associated with the DCMS Create Growth Programme.

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

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

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on the work and decisions of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP), within the remit of the NTCA as the accountable body for the partnership.

Thanks were offered to the NTCA Chief Finance Officer, Strategic Finance Manager and the team for their continued support.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

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

Tuesday, 22 November 2022 at 2pm.

37 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There was no exclusion of press and public.

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

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

The documents were not discussed at the meeting.