

North of Tyne Combined Authority, Cabinet

19 July 2022

(2.00 - 2.27 pm)

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

Minutes

Present:

Chair: Councillor N Kemp

Councillors C Burdis, C Johnson, K Kilgour and R Wearmouth and Ms L Winskell

Also: Mr R Fry, Mayoral Ambassador for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (Observer)

15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor J Driscoll, Mayor N Redfearn and Councillor G Sanderson.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N Kemp declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 (Investment Fund Update) due to being the Byker Ward Member.

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

There were no announcements made at the meeting.

18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 June 2022 were approved as a correct record.

19 NORTH OF TYNE EMPLOYABILITY PLAN

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

The Cabinet considered the report, which sought endorsement of the North of Tyne Employability Plan.

Councillor K Kilgour, the Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills, introduced the report and answered questions. During her presentation, Councillor Kilgour highlighted key matters arising and urged all GP Practices across the region to provide Social Prescribing.

The Cabinet members expressed support for the Plan. Amongst the matters discussed were the following:

- further work was required in partnership with organisations in the area to understand and tackle the challenge of a high level unemployment in the region despite the high number of vacancies. Skills, pathways into employment, appropriate training and future proofing were amongst the matters that would need to be considered when analysing this challenge;
- the support for the proposed direction of travel and clear objectives; and the need for bold and ambitious next steps;
- the high volume of work being undertaken by the North East Local Enterprise Partnership and individual constituent local authorities on employability; and the importance of consolidating efforts and using and building upon that work;
- the different levels of unemployment across the North of Tyne area;
- the importance of good jobs;
- the importance of continuing to target the hard-to-reach communities;
- the welcome inclusion of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE);
- the VCSE sector's work on employability and the financial challenges involved in supporting this work;
- the VCSE Sector should be seen and supported as an employer as well as service provider; and
- employment being the key route out of poverty.

Councillor Kilgour offered thanks to officers for their work.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the North of Tyne Employability Plan be endorsed.

20 **INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE**

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 Fund, including new projects and programmes, and sought approval of allocation of funding.

The report included an update on the NTCA Brownfield Housing Fund, the NTCA Towns and High Streets programme, the Shared Prosperity Fund programme and Employment partnerships.

The report was introduced by Councillor C Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and commended the substantial breadth of activities being undertaken by the Combined Authority to support economic growth and jobs. The Cabinet also welcomed the progress achieved and the level of impact made.

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. The Chief Executive be authorised to make final approvals, under delegated decision, for the following projects: Scotswood's the Rise housing development; a green construction skills for growth project delivered by Re:Geon training; three new Employment Partnerships; and a Technology Development Centre at the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult.
- iii. The progress on the NTCA Towns and High Streets programme be noted; and further project updates be brought to Cabinet.

21 NTCA 2021/22 DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

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

The Cabinet considered the report, which presented the Draft Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2022, including the Draft Narrative Report, Single Entity Accounts, Draft Annual Governance Statement and Group Accounts which consolidated the accounts of Nexus Group within the NTCA Single Entity Accounts.

The report was introduced by J Gillespie, the Chief Finance Officer. It was confirmed that the report had been seen by the Audit and Standards Committee; and the committee had not flagged up any issues.

RESOLVED –

- i. The Draft Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022 be noted; and

The Draft Statement of Accounts 2021/22, including the Draft Narrative Report, in line with Audit and Accounting Regulations 2015 as presented, be noted.

22 **2022/23 Q1 NTCA BUDGET MONITOR REPORT**

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

The Cabinet considered the report, which provided the first quarter monitoring report on the 2022/2023 financial position.

The report brought together the forecast financial position for the Corporate, Investment Fund, Brownfield Housing Fund and Adult Education Budget and provided an indication of the potential position of the North of Tyne Combined Authority at the end of the current financial year. The report included the potential position on the reserves. The report was introduced by J Gillespie, the Chief Finance Officer.

RESOLVED – That the forecast budget monitoring position for the Combined Authority as set out in paragraphs 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 of the report and the reserves position as set out in paragraph 1.6 of the report be noted.

23 **CONSTITUTION: OFFICER EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURE RULES**

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

The Cabinet considered the report, which proposed changes to the process for appointing officers below the position of Director to provide greater organisational efficiency. The report was introduced by J Softly, the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The Chief Executive be authorised, as the Head of Paid Service, to make all decisions in respect of posts below the position of Director (i.e. decision on creation, appointment, disciplinary action and dismissal), excluding the statutory positions of Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer; and
- ii. The Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary amendments to the Officer Employment Rules of Procedure in Part 3.4 of NTCA's Constitution and any other consequential amendments to the Constitution.

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

Tuesday, 20 September 2022 at 2pm.

Chair's Signature:

The Chair signed this document on 26 October 2022, by email.