

Cabinet

22 March 2022

(2.01 - 3.10 pm)

Meeting held: Committee Room, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF

Minutes

Present:

Chair: Mayor N Redfearn

Councillors N Forbes, C Johnson, K Kilgour, G Sanderson and R Wearmouth, and Ms L Winskell

70 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Mayor Driscoll.

71 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There was no declaration of interest.

72 **ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND/OR THE MANAGING DIRECTOR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Thank you and farewell to Councillor N Forbes

Members of Cabinet offered thanks to Councillor N Forbes, who was leaving Newcastle City Council and the North of Tyne Combined Authority, for his hard work and achievements. Speeches were made about his work with partners to establish and develop the Combined Authority, his exemplary work to serve the people of Newcastle upon Tyne and the North of Tyne Combined Authority area and his support of partners, including the North East Local Enterprise Partnership.

Councillor Forbes then addressed the Cabinet offering thanks to his fellow members and officers and speaking about the value of teamwork in achieving progress in regeneration of the region.

73 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 January 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

74 **GETTING STUFF DONE - NTCA ANNUAL REPORT**

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

The Cabinet considered the report, which set out the Combined Authority's work and achievements over the last year. The report 'included information on how NTCA was attracting companies and jobs to the region; safeguarding existing jobs and supporting businesses with advice and guidance; working with communities; investing in rural technologies; providing courses for residents to get good jobs and helping people get back to work. There were also annual updates from the Inclusive Economy Board, the Housing and Land Board and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Group. The report was introduced jointly by all Cabinet Members who outline key priorities and achievements within their respective Portfolios.

A short video was played at the meeting, demonstrating examples and results of the Combined Authority's work.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and the achievements, commending the approach used to working together for the benefit of the region.

The ensuing discussion also included the Authority's work with local universities, including forthcoming opportunities relating to the new and emerging research into the areas of new energies and technologies; the aspiration for the North of Tyne area to become a centre of excellence, which could be achieved through all partners working together and across various sectors; and the good, tangible results produced by the advisory groups and bodies of the Combined Authority through their direct, hands-on approach and engagement.

Thanks were offered to:

- Members and Officers of the North of Tyne Combined Authority;
- The Right Reverend Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle and the previous Chair of the North of Tyne Combined Authority's Inclusive Economy Board;
- Members and Officers of the North of Tyne Combined Authority's Housing and Land Board;
- Partners and stakeholders involved.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

75 **DEVOLVED ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET MID-YEAR 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 provision that had been delivered through the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) for the 6-month period from 1 August 2021 to 4 February 2022. It set out the adult education opportunities that have been created for the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) residents during the first half of this academic year and outlined next steps in terms of managing AEB delivery for the remainder of this academic year and into academic year 2022-2023.

The report also set out a proposal for a provider framework to enable NTCA to distribute skills funding in response to performance and demand. The report was introduced by Councillor K Kilgour, Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Skills, who offered thanks to all those involved in this work.

The Cabinet welcomed the report.

RESOLVED - That:

- i. The progress which has been made in terms of the Adult Education Budget delivery for the first half of the Academic Year 2021-22 (1 August 2021 to 4 February 2022) be noted; and the approach to managing the Adult Education Budget delivery for the remainder of this year and into Academic Year 2022-23 be endorsed; and
- ii. The proposal for a procured Provider Framework detailed in section 1.9 of the report be approved; and the Managing Director be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Skills, to approve subsequent Call-off contracts and associated funding allocations for adult education providers on the Framework.

76 **SKILLS PROGRAMMES**

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

The Cabinet considered the report, which highlighted some of the emerging opportunities that had been detailed in the recent HM Government Levelling Up White Paper and a proposed approach for NTCA to respond to those new opportunities for the NTCA area, working in collaboration with the Department for Education, employers and skills providers. The report was introduced by Councillor K Kilgour, Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Skills.

The Cabinet welcomed the report. Amongst the matters discussed by the Cabinet were the following:

- The importance of delving into the policy for the lifelong learning funding to see how opportunities within it could be maximised for the North of Tyne area and its universities.
- The importance of continuing to work to reach the hard-to-reach communities, including looking into how learning could be brought to learners

and how the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector could be involved to support this work.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The availability of the existing delegation in place for the NTCA Chief Finance Officer to accept grant offers on behalf of the Combined Authority, subject to all the terms and conditions set out by the grant awarding body be noted; and
- ii. The Managing Director be authorised, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Skills, to approve the commissioning approach for Skills Bootcamps detailed in paragraph 1.2.10 of the report and the commissioning approach for any subsequent new Skills funding received from the Department for Education to NTCA.

77 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 Fund and Brownfield Housing Fund and sought associated approvals. The report was introduced by Councillor C Johnson, Cabinet Member for Investment and Resources.

The Cabinet welcomed the report.

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. £1.3m of funding for the North of Tyne Innovation Recovery Grant (Phase 2), where the lead delivery partner was Northumberland Business Services Ltd be approved.
- iii. The overall approach to Culture and Creative Zones be approved; and an allocation of £5.235m until March 2028, which incorporated the £1.5m already allocated until March 2023, and which included the following projects, be approved:
 - a. £1.695m of funding for North Shields Cultural Quarter, which would be led by North Tyneside City Council, be approved.
 - b. £1.7m of funding for Newcastle Culture and Creative Zone – Clayton Street Corridor, which would be led by Newcastle City Council, be approved.
 - c. Authority be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Mayor, appropriate Cabinet Member and Investment Panel, to approve funding for the Berwick Culture and Creative proposal led by

Northumberland County Council, subject to satisfactory completion of a full business case.

- d. Authority be delegated to the Managing Director to approve relevant programme-level expenditure relating to Culture and Creative Zone programme.
- iv. £6million of funding be approved for the Towns and High Streets Innovation Programme, which would be delivered by the North of Tyne Combined Authority and Local Authorities; and authority be delegated to the Managing Director to agree delivery arrangements for up to £1.9million to each Local Authority and the remainder to be retained by the NTCA for area-wide activities and programme co-ordination.
- v. The Cabinet noted that the NTCA had received an additional £8 million of Brownfield Housing Funding from Government; and authority be delegated to the Managing Director and the Interim Monitoring Officer to enter into an agreement with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for this funding. Authority for approvals be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Mayor, appropriate Cabinet Member and Investment Panel, to make subsequent project approvals, subject to satisfactory completion of full business cases.
- vi. £374,816 of funding for Community Engagement Platform Development, which would be led by the NTCA, be approved.
- vii. £82,000 of business case development funding for Northumbria Healthcare Trust to further develop their Innovation Hub be approved.
- viii. The Managing Director be authorised to finalise the conditions to be attached to the above funding awards; and the Interim Monitoring Officer be authorised to complete the necessary documentation.
- ix. Agreement be given to commencement of a procurement exercise to identify an equity fund manager; and authority be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Interim Monitoring Officer, to award the contract in accordance with Contract Standing Orders.

78 **CHILD POVERTY PREVENTION PROGRAMME**

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

The Cabinet considered the report, which provided an update on progress of the North of Tyne Child Poverty Prevention Programme and sought delegation for a grant funded element of the programme. The report was introduced by Councillor K Kilgour, Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Skills.

Councillor Kilgour encouraged the Cabinet members to support the call for the Government to increase benefits by 6%; and this was supported.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The initial progress of the Child Poverty Prevention Programme for the North of Tyne be noted; and
- ii. Authority be delegated to the Managing Director in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer and Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Skills to approve grant funding as part of the agreed Child Poverty Prevention Programme.

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

Submitted: A report of the Chief Executive, 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 (LEP).

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

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

Tuesday, 7 June 2022 at 2pm.

Chair's closing comments

The Chair thanked Northumberland County Council for hosting the meeting.

The Chair offered thanks to all members and officers for their work.

81 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There was no exclusion of press and public.

82 **NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP - FUNDING DECISIONS UPDATE: APPENDIX TO THE REPORT**

Submitted: An appendix to the report set out at agenda item 10 (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Noted.

Chair's Signature:



Signed on: 23 June 2022