

North East Combined Authority

Leadership Board (Extraordinary Meeting)

17 May 2016

Meeting held: County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UQ

Present:

Councillor S Henig (Chair)

Councillors N Forbes, M Henry, D Ledger, I Malcolm and P Watson, Mayor N Redfearn and Mr A Hodgson

66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

68 DEVELOPMENT OF THE METRO AND LOCAL RAIL STRATEGY

Submitted: A report of the Thematic Lead for Transport (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which set out information on the development of the new Metro and Local Rail Strategy and sought endorsement of the proposed objectives.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the strategy was a long-term piece of work, which was at its early stages, and there would be many opportunities for engagement on various matters arising in due course, including in the context of the proposed devolution deal.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. The contents of the report be noted; and
- II. The objectives proposed for the Metro and Local Rail Strategy described in section 2.1 of the report be endorsed.

69 NORTH EAST COMBINED AUTHORITY - THE DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT

Submitted:

- i. A report of the Head of Paid Service (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes);

- ii. North East Combined Authority – The Devolution Agreement Supplementary Report 1 (with the Chair's permission, due to the timetables involved circulated at the meeting and copy attached to Official Minutes);
- iii. Replacement Recommendations for the following document: North East Combined Authority – The Devolution Agreement Supplementary Report 1 (with the Chair's permission, due to the timetables involved circulated at the meeting and copy attached to Official Minutes); and
- iv. North East Combined Authority – The Devolution Agreement Supplementary Report 2 (with the Chair's permission, due to the timetables involved circulated at the meeting and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report, and the supplementary reports, which set out information received from the government on the proposed devolution deal and sought their agreement of associated recommendations.

The ensuing discussion included the following points:

- The good progress achieved;
- The importance of further, urgent negotiations with the government to secure answers to ensure a deal that achieved the best for the region and addresses its needs;
- The importance of right powers and responsibilities for the region;
- The importance of a deal that did not disadvantage the region;
- The importance of highways funding;
- The importance of all constituent local authorities joining devolution;
- The position of Gateshead Council who supported the principle of devolution but was not content with the proposals as they currently were and would continue the dialogue on this;
- The positive dialogue and relationships with the business community, in particular through the North East Local Enterprise Partnership;
- The high volume of work that was still required to be undertaken.

DECISION

Members then voted on the recommendations, as follows:

In favour:

Councillor S Henig (Durham County Council)
 Councillor N Forbes (Newcastle City Council)
 Mayor N Redfearn (North Tyneside Council)
 Councillor G Davey (Northumberland County Council)
 Councillor I Malcolm (South Tyneside Council)
 Councillor P Watson (Sunderland City Council).

Against:

Councillor M Henry (Gateshead Council).

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The contents of the report, the outstanding issues identified by the Leadership Board relating to the proposed Devolution Agreement in March, the responses by the government and the subsequent progress made be noted.
- ii. The proposed Devolution Agreement be endorsed and agreement be given to the establishment of the North East Combined Authority as a Mayoral Combined Authority.
- iii. Delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Chair of the North East Combined Authority, the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer to consent to the Order creating the Mayoral Combined Authority to enable the formal establishment of the Mayoral Combined Authority to proceed.
- iv. Delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer to complete the Governance Review and the preparation of a governance scheme for consideration at the next meeting of the Leadership Board.
- v. The Leadership Board confirmed that the initial term of office for the Mayor of the North East Combined Authority would be for a period of 3 years from 4 May 2017 with subsequent terms of office being for 4 years in accordance with the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (as amended).
- vi. The proposals as set out in paragraph 25 of the report in respect of highways maintenance and incentive funding be agreed.
- vii. The Leadership Board noted that all constituent authorities and the Mayoral Combined Authority would be required to consent to the second order for the devolution of powers and responsibilities in accordance with the Devolution Agreement of the 23rd October 2015 to proceed.

70 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 21 June 2016 at 2pm (Annual Meeting).

71 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That by virtue of paragraphs 3 and 5 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 item 7 (New Tyne Crossing – Update Report) because exempt information was likely to be disclosed and the public interest test against the disclosure was satisfied.