

North East Joint Transport Committee

Date: 16 November 2021

Decisions – Notification

Please Note: In accordance with the Constitution of the Combined Authority, key decisions will not be implemented pending any call-in.

Date of Publication: 17 November 2021

A request for a call-in must be received by the Monitoring Officer (Transport) by 5pm on 24 November 2021

Item	Decision / Information	Contact Officer
1. Apologies for Absence	Apologies were received from Cllr Tracey Dixon, Cllr Amanda Hopgood, Cllr Graeme Miller and Cllr Glen Sanderson.	Emma Reynard emmareynard@gateshead.gov.uk
2. Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest.	
3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 October 2021	RESOLVED: The minutes were agreed as a correct record.	Emma Reynard emmareynard@gateshead.gov.uk

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4. Transport for the North Update	RESOLVED: The North East Joint Transport Committee agreed that the Bus Service Improvement Plan be published and submitted to the Department for Transport.	Tobyn Hughes Tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk
5. Transport North East – Transport Plan Progress Report	RESOLVED: The North East Joint Transport Committee noted the report.	Tobyn Hughes Tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk
6. Transforming Cities Fund – Tranche 2 Programme Update	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>The North East Joint Transport Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Agreed and approved advanced funding for the regional ITS scheme, totalling £4.5m, and instructed officers to prepare and execute a Grant Funding Agreement with Newcastle City Council for these funds. (ii) Agreed and approved advanced funding for the North Shields Transport Interchange scheme, totalling £3.24m, and instructed officers to prepare and execute a Grant Funding Agreement with North Tyneside Council for these funds. (iii) Approved the removal of the South Shields to Newcastle Bus Corridor scheme from the Transforming Cities Fund programme and 	Jonathan Bailes Jonathan.bailes@transportnortheast.gov.uk

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	<p>reallocate £1.5m of TCF funds to the regional ITS scheme.</p> <p>(iv) Acknowledged the Transforming Cities Fund programme update.</p>	
<p>7. Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 – Grant Funding Agreements (ITS)</p>	<p>RESOLVED: The North East Joint Transport Committee:</p> <p>(i) Delegated authority to the Transport North East Managing Director, in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer, to approve the release of £18,607,188 from the TCF Devolved Pot to the ITS scheme, subject to successful appraisal in line with Transport Assurance Framework.</p> <p>(ii) Instructed officers to prepare and sign a Grant Funding Agreement with Newcastle City Council for the ITS scheme.</p>	<p>Jonathan Bailes Jonathan.bailes@transportnortheast.gov.uk</p>
<p>8. Discharge of Transport Functions by Northumberland County Council 2020/21</p>	<p>RESOLVED: The North East Joint Transport Committee noted the transport responsibilities of Northumberland County Council and the activities undertaken in 2020/21</p>	<p>Rick O’Farrell Rick.O'Farrell@northumberland.gov.uk</p>

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9. Revenue Budget Proposals 2022/23 and Updated Forecast of Outturn 2021/22	<p>RESOLVED: The North East Joint Transport Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received the report for information and comment; • Noted the updated forecast of outturn for the 2021/22 Transport budget as set out in the report; • Agreed to write to the Government, formally requesting that Covid-19 support for the Tyne and Wear Metro be continued over at least the next financial year; • Considered the budget assumptions/proposals set out in the report, forming the basis of consultation on the 2022/23 Transport budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. That £5.6m of Nexus’ reserves are utilised in 2022/23 to help balance the budget next year; b. That the Nexus budget for bus concessionary travel reimbursement in Tyne and Wear is reduced by £7.5m next year in line with government guidance, with funding redirected towards Nexus to help offset funding pressures with the Metro; 	<p>Paul Darby Paul.darby@durham.gov.uk</p> <p>Eleanor Goodman Eleanor.goodman@northeastca.gov.uk</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. That Nexus be tasked with achieving efficiency savings of £2.4m and additional income of £1.2m to assist in balancing the budget in 2022/23; d. That as a last resort the 2022/23 Transport Levy for Tyne and Wear is indicatively to be set at £65.225m, which represents an increase of £4.125m compared with the current year, but subject to a positive response to from the government in relation to Covid-19 support, and subject to further revision should passenger numbers on the Tyne and Wear Metro improve beyond forecast levels; e. That the revenue grant to Nexus for 2022/23 is indicatively proposed to be set at £63.125m which represents an increase of £4.125m compared with the current year; f. That the alternative to an increased Tyne and Wear levy would be cuts to other Nexus services to the value of £4.125m; 	

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	<p>g. That a minimum contribution of £500,000 to Transport North East be top sliced from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block grant received by the JTC in 2022/23;</p> <p>h. That the JTC Tyne and Wear Sub Committee give consideration to increasing the Tyne Tunnels tolls for Class 3 vehicles next year in line with Retail Price Index inflation as set out in the concession contract and the agreed approach to the funding of the Tyne Tunnels (Note: the final decision will be taken by the Tyne and Wear Sub Committee in January 2022);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted that the budget proposals for Transport will be subject to a consultation process including reports to the JTC Overview and Scrutiny Committee, relevant officer groups and the Leadership Board of NECA and the NTCA Cabinet; • Noted the intention to approve the budget and agree the Transport levies at the meeting of the JTC on 18 January 2022, after considering any comments received on the proposals and decisions reached by 	

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	the Tyne and Wear Sub Committee in January 2022.	
10. Forecast of Capital Outturn 2021/22 – Period to 30 September 2021	<p>RESOLVED: The North East Joint Transport Committee:</p> <p>(i) Noted the updated forecast of capital outturn for 2021/22;</p> <p>(ii) Agreed the £0.400m increase in the budget for the Tyne Pedestrian and Cycle Tunnels refurbishment project as set out in section 2.34, to be funded from Tyne Tunnels reserves.</p>	<p>Paul Darby Paul.darby@durham.gov.uk</p> <p>Eleanor Goodman Eleanor.goodman@northeastca.gov.uk</p>
11. Exclusion of the Press and Public	<p>RESOLVED: The North East Joint Transport Committee agreed to exclude the press and public during consideration of items 12, 13 and 14 by virtue of paragraphs 3 and 5 of Parts 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.</p>	
12. Minutes of the confidential meeting held on 26 October 2021	The minutes were agreed as a correct record.	<p>Emma Reynard emmareynard@gateshead.gov.uk</p>
13. Forecast of Capital Outturn 2021/22 – Period to 30	<p>RESOLVED: The North East Joint Transport Committee noted the contents of the confidential appendix.</p>	<p>Paul Darby Paul.darby@durham.gov.uk</p>

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September 2021 – Confidential Appendix		Eleanor Goodman Eleanor.goodman@northeastca.gov.uk
14. Tyne Tunnels Support Staffing	RESOLVED: The North East Joint Transport Committee agreed the recommendations of the confidential report.	Fiona Bootle Fiona.bootle@transportnortheast.gov.uk