

## **North East Joint Transport Committee**

### **APPROVED MINUTES**

17 September 2019

Meeting held in the Mansion House, Newcastle upon Tyne

#### **Present:**

Councillor: M Gannon (Chair)

Councillors: W Daley, C Johnson, J McCarty and M Walsh  
Mayor J Driscoll

#### **14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors S Henig, I Malcolm, C Marshall, G Miller, and M Mordey and Mayor N Redfearn.

#### **15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18 JUNE 2019**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record.

#### **17 REGIONAL TRANSPORT UPDATE**

The Joint Transport Committee received a report on recent developments in transport affecting the LA7 area which included information regarding finalisation of the region's Transforming Cities Fund to be submitted to Government at the end of November 2019, progress on the new North East Transport Plan, engagement in proposals to improve rail connections through the HS2 rail link and Northern Powerhouse Rail, formulation of a campaign strategy to highlight the current problems with East Coast Main Line, an update on the new Northern Connect local rail service between Middlesbrough and Carlisle via Newcastle, an update on NEBus, progress on the delivery of 11 electric vehicle charging hubs funded through the Go Ultra Low North East Programme, and the reopening of the Tyne Pedestrian and Cycling Tunnels.

It was proposed that a Tyne Tunnels Manager post be created, reporting to the Managing Director Transport North East, to manage the client-side aspects of the Tyne Tunnels Project Agreement.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
  - (ii) That the creation of the post of Tyne Tunnels Manager, as set out in the report, be approved.

## **18 NORTH EAST RAIL DEVOLUTION UPDATE**

The Joint Transport Committee received a report on emerging updates on the Williams review of rail franchising and on the development of the region's plans to strive for greater control and accountability over the specification and operation of local rail services.

RESOLVED - That the updates be noted.

## **19 DISCHARGE OF TRANSPORT FUNCTIONS BY NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL 2018/19**

The Joint Transport Committee received a report on the discharge by Northumberland County Council of the functions delegated to it by the Committee in the financial year 2018/19.

RESOLVED - That the transport responsibilities of Northumberland County Council and the activities undertaken in 2018/19 be noted.

## **20 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT**

The Joint Transport Committee received a report which provided details of the 2019/20 capital programme with expenditure and forecasts based on the position at the end of July/August 2019.

Total expenditure on transport schemes of £92.303m was forecast against the revised programme budget of £93.778m. The revised programme took account of the 2018/19 outturn and new grant approvals made since the original capital programme was set in January 2019. Expenditure to date totalled £20.543m.

RESOLVED - That the contents of the report be noted.

## **21 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

The Joint Transport Committee received a report which provided an update on the forecast outturn position in relation to the 2019/20 transport revenue budget.

The forecast outturn position for the year was that expenditure was expected to be within the revised budget against all budget heads.

Underspends were currently forecast by Durham and Northumberland County Councils which will be retained by those organisations. Nexus was forecasting a deficit of £3.500m due to cost pressures and one-off items, which will be met by Nexus reserves in year.

The Tyne Tunnels account was forecasting a small reduction in tolls income.

RESOLVED - That the contents of the report be noted.