



Economic Prosperity Sub Committee

North Tyneside Council

Monday, 24 February 2020

Tuesday, 3 March 2020 in the Boardroom at Tyne Metropolitan College, Battle Hill Drive, Wallsend, NE28 9NL commencing at 6.00 pm.

Agenda Item	Page
1. Apologies for Absence To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.	
2. Appointment of Substitute Members To be notified of the appointment of any Substitute Members.	
3. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations You are invited to declare any registerable and/or nonregisterable interests in matters appearing on the agenda, and the nature of that interest. You are also invited to disclose any dispensation in relation to any registerable interests that have been granted to you in respect of any matters appearing on the agenda. You are also requested to complete the Declarations of Interests card available at the meeting and return it to the Democratic Services Officer before leaving the meeting.	
4. Minutes To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 January 2020.	3 - 4
5. Employment and Skills To examine the action taken by the Council and its partners in relation to employment and skills.	5 - 8

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Members of the Economic Prosperity Sub Committee

Councillor Ken Barrie
Councillor John Harrison
Councillor Joe Kirwin
Councillor Martin Rankin
Councillor Matthew Thirlaway
Councillor Frances Weetman

Councillor Naomi Craven
Councillor Janet Hunter (Chair)
Councillor Karen Lee
Councillor John Stirling
Councillor Joan Walker (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Matt Wilson

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Economic Prosperity Sub Committee

Tuesday, 7 January 2020

Present: Councillor Janet Hunter (Chair)
Councillors N Craven, J Harrison, J Kirwin, M Rankin,
J Stirling, M Thirlaway, J Walker and M Wilson

EP16/20 Appointment of Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members appointed.

EP17/20 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

EP18/20 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 November 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

EP19/20 Transport Strategy

The sub-committee met to consider delivery of local and regional transport strategies and their impact on economic growth in North Tyneside.

Colin McDonald, Senior Manager: Technical and Regulatory Services, described the national and regional transport policy context and he introduced various officers to the sub-committee who were to present details of those specific areas of transport strategy that the sub-committee had asked to examine.

Andy Flynn, Integrated Transport Manager, described the vision and principles contained within the Council's Transport Strategy 2017-2032 and the action taken to deliver its aims. Whilst most of the actions contained within the delivery plan had now have been completed, the Strategy would continue to shape the Council's decision making and support bids for investment.

The sub-committee considered the mechanisms available to the Council to work with commercial partners to meet the needs transport needs of people working and living in the borough, for example through planning conditions and travel plans. The Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy was currently under review. Members highlighted the need to work with neighbouring local authorities to standardise policies and practices across administrative boundaries.

John Cram, Integrated Transport Officer, outlined the emerging vision, objectives and principles to be adopted by the North East Joint Transport Committee in a Transport Plan

for the North East. Once a draft plan had been finalised it was likely to be subject to a 12 week public consultation exercise between July and September 2020. The sub-committee expressed its desire, subject to agreement with the relevant Cabinet member, to comment on the draft plan as part of the consultation exercise.

Members welcomed the vision of “Moving to a green...North East”, particularly as the Council had recently declared a climate emergency and agreed actions aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions. The sub-committee queried whether the Council’s Transport Strategy ought to be refreshed in the light of the climate emergency and evolving regional strategy. Members also discussed the implications of increasing numbers of electric vehicles in terms of the need for charging point infrastructure and continued congestion.

Nicholas Bryan, Highways Network Manager, provided an overview of plans to introduce, by January 2021, a charging Clean Air Zone in central Newcastle, lane restrictions on Tyne Bridge, access restrictions on the Central Motorway, grants for vehicle upgrades and a behavioural change engagement package. The sub-committee discussed the eligibility and level of grants that would be made available and the time lapse that would occur between the introduction of the measures and the replacement of the metro fleet which help to provide an attractive, alternative means of transport. Reference was made to a report Sustrans were due to publish in relation to the impact of closing streets adjacent to schools on air quality and changing travel behaviours. The sub-committee expressed an interest in considering the report.

John Cram, Integrated Transport Officer, presented details of the proposals to reintroduce a passenger rail service on the existing freight line between Newcastle and Ashington via Northumberland Park. The line would facilitate economic and housing growth, improve public transport, reduce congestion and improve air quality. The sub-committee examined the business case for the service in terms of profitability, demand and its impact on the capacity of Northumberland Park metro station.

Mark Newlands, Highways and Infrastructure Manager, presented the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) Annual Report 2019 which provided information on highway and infrastructure maintenance undertaken. Particular reference was made to changes to the highway inspection policy, the backlog of highway repairs remaining under control and delivery of work programmes including investment in footway improvements. The sub-committee discussed the merits of using recycled plastic material to resurface roads and queried whether the additional investment in footway improvements within town centres had been the most effective use of resources.

The Chair thanked the officers for their presentations and for answering member’s questions.

Meeting: Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee

Date: 3 March 2020

Title: Employment and Skills

Author: Michael Robson

Tel: 643 5359

Service: Law and Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report presents evidence to inform and support members in examining the action taken by the Council and its partners in relation to employment and skills.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The sub-committee is responsible for examining the delivery of services and influencing decision makers in the formulation of their future plans, strategies and their decision making by making evidence-based recommendations to them on how services can be improved in relation to the following areas:

- Economic Development
- Planning
- Business and Enterprise
- Transport Network
- Highways and Road Safety
- Town Centres
- Inward Investment
- Tourism

- 2.2 In determining its work programme, members agreed to devote a meeting to examining the action taken by the Council and its partners in relation to employment and skills. The sub-committee may wish to pursue the following lines for enquiry which were raised during formulation of the work programme:

- a) the link between the economy and employment with education and skills and the need to raise educational attainment and aspirations;
- b) to examine the extent to which there has been an uplift in the employability of people living in the borough;
- c) to identify skills shortages and to examine the action to be taken to address any gaps;
- d) the extent to which the Council's plans and strategies are likely to deliver inclusive growth, identifying cold spots and ensuring people from these areas are included in economic growth; and

- e) to consider the Council's approach to delivering a green industrial revolution and ensure people have the right skills for the future green jobs.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 The Local Enterprise Partnership's ambition in its [Strategic Economic Plan](#) is that demand for skills and the quality of jobs continue to improve, leading to higher productivity. To deliver this, the North East must be a place where:
- Individuals, regardless of age or employment status, have a good understanding of the employment opportunities available in the North East and the pathways to access them
 - Employers have strong links with education and training providers leading to responsive provision that meets local needs
 - All partners understand the importance of skills in improving productivity and living standards, with commitment to delivering good working environments for residents.
- 3.2 The [North of Tyne Combined Authority's Economic Vision](#) seeks to give everyone the opportunity to thrive – to attain a fair wage, and access good jobs with continued training and skills development available once in work. It will work with business and civil society to change working practices, working with employers committed to providing pay and conditions which enable people to take up local jobs and progress.
- 3.3 [Our North Tyneside Plan](#) states that “Our economy will... be business friendly, ensuring the right skills and conditions are in place to support investment” and “Our people willbe ready for work and life.”
- 3.4 The Cabinet are expected to update the Council's Employment and Skills Strategy in 2020 to bring it, and the Ambition for North Tyneside programme, into a single view of an Inclusive Economic Strategy and to align it with the work of the Combined Authority.

4. Meeting

- 4.1 Mark Barrett, the Council's Senior Manager, Employment and Skills, and Mo Dixon, Principal of Tyne Met College, have agreed to attend this evenings meeting to
- a) present an overview of the key issues in relation to employment and skills;
 - b) describe the current strategic landscape in relation to the North East LEP, North of Tyne Combined Authority and the Council's approach to identifying and addressing skills gaps; and
 - c) describe how Tyne Met College delivers a range of programmes to help businesses to grow and maximise the skills and effectiveness of their workforce.
- 4.2 As the Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee is responsible for scrutinising adult education, work based learning and 14-19 skills, members of that sub-committee have also been invited to attend the visit and meeting.

5. Construction Centre

- 5.1 Prior to tonight's meeting Sub-Committee members have been invited to visit Tyne Metropolitan College's Construction Centre.
- 5.2 The Centre was opened in 2019. The £2.6m construction training centre provides classrooms, learning hubs and demonstration areas, all fully fitted with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. Trades covered include bricklaying, plastering, dry-lining, painting and decorating, plumbing, joinery, and electrical engineering. Programmes of study, including apprenticeships, are available to school-leavers, with flexible adult and part time courses for adults looking to re-train, upskill or begin a career. Overall, it specialises in delivering the hands-on skills that equip learners for work in construction and building services across the region. The centre replaced the former TMC training facility which was highly regarded for delivering one of the North East's widest packages of construction-based training. Lecturers are delivering a phased expansion of its curriculum, allowing them to offer additional higher-level courses, higher education and skills training.

6. Background Information

- 6.1 The following background documents have been used in the compilation of this report and are available from the report author:
- Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee Work Programme 2019/20
 - Minutes of the Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee 25 June 2019
 - The Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan
 - North of Tyne Combined Authority's Economic Vision
 - Our North Tyneside Plan
 - <https://www.tynemet.ac.uk/>

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