



North Tyneside Council

Economic Prosperity Sub Committee

22 November 2021

Tuesday, 30 November 2021 Room 0.01, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, NE27 0BY **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 non-registerable 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	5 - 8
To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 September 2021.	

Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and receive information about it.

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For further information please call 0191 643 5359.

5. Regional Recovery Plans

To receive a joint presentation from Henry Kippin, Managing Director of the North of Tyne Combined Authority and John Sparkes, the Council's Director of Regeneration and Economic Development, on the region's recovery plans for employment and transport in the region.

6. Good Work Pledge

To receive a presentation on the [Good Work Pledge](#) developed by the North of Tyne Combined Authority, to enable employers to understand the key elements of "good work", what they can do to achieve this for their employees and what support is available to help them get there and to consider its impact in North Tyneside.

7. The State of the Local Economy

To receive a presentation setting out a dashboard of data to provide an indication of the state of the economy in North Tyneside.

8. Appointment of the Green Skills Sub Group**9 - 10**

To appoint a sub group to consider the Council's approach to adapting to a green industrial revolution and ensuring people have the right skills for the future green jobs.

Circulation overleaf ...

Members of the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Councillor Liam Bones
Councillor Margaret Hall
Councillor Janet Hunter
Councillor Bruce Pickard
Councillor John Stirling
Councillor George Westwater

Councillor Trish Brady
Councillor John Harrison
Councillor Hannah Johnson
Councillor Willie Samuel
Councillor Joan Walker (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Matt Wilson (Chair)

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Economic Prosperity Sub Committee

Tuesday, 28 September 2021

Present: Councillor M Wilson (Chair)
Councillors L Bones, T Brady, J Harrison, H Johnson,
J O'Shea, B Pickard, W Samuel, J Stirling, J Walker and
G Westwater

Apologies: Councillors M Hall

8/21 Appointment of Substitute Members

Pursuant to the Council's Constitution the appointment of the following substitute member was reported:

Councillor J O'Shea for Councillor M Hall

9/21 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Councillor Liam Bones declared a non-registerable personal interest in relation to minute 12/21 because his parents were currently submitting a change of use planning application and a licensing application in relation to premises located in a North Tyneside town centre.

10/21 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

11/21 Former Swan Hunter Shipyard

The Committee met at the Swans Centre for Innovation in Wallsend to view and consider the ongoing development of the former Swan Hunter shipyard.

Having viewed the Centre and the wider site, the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development, John Sparkes, gave a presentation which:

- a) set out the history of the site;
- b) summarised the Council's involvement in the development of the site and its vision and plans for the future having sold much of the site to Shepherd's Offshore;
- c) described the work undertaken to renovate and market the Swans Centre for Innovation;
- d) evaluated the outcomes achieved in return for the investment into the site; and
- e) updated members on work undertaken in conjunction with the North of Tyne Combined Authority and Newcastle City Council to determine a strategy for the development of the North Bank of the Tyne area.

Representatives of Shepherd Offshore had been invited to attend the meeting to discuss the company's plans for the site but they were unfortunately unable to attend. It was hoped that an alternative date could be arranged to enable the sub-committee to meet with the company.

Members of the sub-committee asked questions and discussed the future of the site and the surrounding area. The sub-committee paid particular attention to:

- the progress made by the National Grid in pursuing options for the re-routing or removal of the overhead power transmission cables across the River Tyne which restricted the capacity of the river to accommodate larger vessels;
- the extent to which the Council could maintain control over the development of the former Swan Hunter shipyard following its sale to Shepherd Offshore both under the terms of the sale and in planning law;
- the amount of funding secured for the development of the site which had been reclaimed because the associated projects had not gone ahead;
- the amount and proportion of external funding leveraged into the site by the Council's involvement;
- the reasons for a decline since 2016 in the number of tenants letting property in the Swans Centre for Innovation;
- the collaboration between those authorities operating on the north and south banks of the Tyne to deliver a coherent economic strategy for the river;
- the potential of the site to attract investment from the offshore wind turbine industry; and
- how it could be demonstrated that the economic development of the north bank of the Tyne would generate value and prosperity for the population of North Tyneside.

Resolved that the presentation in relation to the ongoing development of the former Swan Hunter shipyard be noted.

12/21 State of the Economy

The sub-committee was presented with data which provided an indication of the state of the economy in North Tyneside. The data included the numbers of people claiming Universal Credit, the number of employments furloughed, the town centre vacancy rate, numbers of job advertisements and new business start ups.

Comparative data indicated that North Tyneside tended to be performing better than the North East averages but worse than national averages. Consequently, North Tyneside had been placed in Category 2 by the Government for the purposes of assessing bids for the Levelling Up Fund. Neighbouring authorities had been placed in the higher priority Category 1. To overcome this the Council was working with its neighbours and the North of Tyne Combined Authority to prepare joint bids.

It was suggested that the sub-committee should continue to receive updated data on a regular basis but that the data should be compared with the performance in other regions rather than national averages.

The sub-committee asked for clarification of the basis on which the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers had been calculated and examined the reasons for the drop in property vacancy rates.

Resolved that (1) the data relating to the state of the economy in North Tyneside be noted; and
(2) the sub-committee continue to be presented with a dashboard of data on a regular basis.

13/21 Green Skills for Green Jobs

The sub-committee considered whether to appoint a time limited sub-group to consider the Council's approach to adapting to a green industrial revolution and ensuring people have the right skills for the future green jobs. Members agreed that it would be a worthwhile topic to investigate. The Chair of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee had no objection to the sub-committee undertaking the exercise which crossed over into its remit.

Resolved that a Green Skills Sub-Group be appointed to consider the Council's approach to adapting to a green industrial revolution and ensuring people have the right skills for the future green jobs.

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Meeting: Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee

Date: 30 November 2021

Title: Green Skills Sub Group

Author: Michael Robson

Tel: 643 5359

Service: Law and Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This reports presents a proposal for the appointment of a task and finish sub-group to consider the Council's approach to adapting to a green industrial revolution and ensuring people have the right skills for the future green jobs.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The sub-committee is recommended to:
- a) appoint the Green Skills Sub Group;
 - b) approve the remit for the sub group as set out in section 3.2 of this report;
 - c) appoint the members listed in section 3.3 of this report to the sub group.

3. Details

- 3.1 At its previous meeting in September 2021, the sub-committee agreed to appoint a sub group to consider the Council's approach to adapting to a green industrial revolution and ensuring people have the right skills for the future green jobs. In appointing a sub group the Council's Constitution states that the sub-committee must:
- a) have regard to the approved work programme and advice of relevant officers on the overall capacity of the Authority to support such studies;
 - b) determine the remit for each sub group who will be bound by the terms of that remit; and
 - c) determine the membership of the sub group to be drawn from non-executive members of the Council.
- 3.2 Since then preparatory work has been undertaken in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee and relevant officers. Arising from this work it is proposed that the remit of the sub group will be to:

- a) consider the steps required to ensure residential, public, commercial and industrial buildings in the borough have the lowest possible carbon emissions to support the Council's 2030 net zero ambition;
- b) analyse the skills, qualifications and accreditations that will need to be gained by the local workforce so that:
 - i. they are equipped to deliver energy efficient buildings;
 - ii. the need for imported skills is avoided; and
 - iii. the borough benefits from the low carbon economic growth;
- c) identify sources of funding that could be accessed for skills and training from a variety of sources to support the local economy;
- d) make recommendations to the Elected Mayor and Cabinet on how the Council and its partners might stimulate the local training market so that the required skills, qualifications and accreditations can be taught to our residents by North Tyneside based providers.

3.3 All members of the Economic Prosperity, Environment and Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committees were invited to express an interest in serving on the sub group as the topic cuts the across the remit of each sub-committee. The following members responded and it is proposed that they be appointed to the sub group:

- Councillor Matt Wilson
- Councillor Margaret Hall
- Councillor Trish Brady
- Councillor Bruce Pickard
- Councillor Brian Burdis
- Councillor Liam Bones
- Councillor Maureen Madden

3.4 Work is continuing to identify the relevant sources of evidence and to formulate a work programme for the sub group. It is envisaged that the group will undertake much of its work between December and February with a view to reporting its findings and any recommendations to the Sub-Committee in March 2022.

4. Background Information

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author:

- North Tyneside Council Constitution
- Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee minutes and work programme 2021/22