

(Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the Board scheduled to be held on 13 July 2016.)

Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee

15 June 2016

Present: Councillor Janet Hunter (Chair)
Councillors J Cassidy, S L Cox, K Lee, P Earley
D McMeekan, A McMullen, A Percy, and J Walker.

EP01/06/16 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Cox and F Weetman.

EP02/06/16 Substitute Members

Pursuant to the Council's constitution the appointment of the following substitute Member was reported:-

Councillor S L Cox for Councillor D Cox.

EP03/06/16 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no Declarations of Interest or Dispensations reported.

EP04/06/16 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 25 February 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

EP05/06/16 Work Programme 2016/17

The sub-committee gave consideration to a range of suggested topics for inclusion in its work programme for 2016/17. The suggested topics had been received from a variety of sources and discussed with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the sub-committee when they had been categorised as being suitable for in-depth investigation (to be undertaken by a sub-group) or as monitoring reports that could be dealt with during committee meetings.

In determining which topics should be prioritised for in-depth investigation, the sub-committee were advised to consider the following factors:

- Is it timely?
- Will it duplicate any other work ongoing within the Council or the NECA scrutiny work programme?
- Will it add value/contribute to policy development?

The sub-committee considered the following topics for in-depth investigation:

Business Rates. To examine the changes that will occur from 2019/20 when local authorities will retain 100% of income from business rates, including the options available

Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee

to the Council in deciding how to spend the revenue and whether to lower rates to attract new business. The sub-committee agreed that any study into this topic should wait until the government produce its detailed proposals.

Inward Investment. To look at targeted sector groups and how the local authority interacts with the North East Combined Authority (NECA). The sub-committee agreed that until the future governance arrangements surrounding the NECA become clearer and the outcome of the EU Referendum is known, any such investigation would be premature.

Town Centre Parking. To review car parking provision in town centres and how this might be improved to support the town centre economies. A Parking Permit Sub-Group had met to review the current permit system and identify ways to improve and simplify the permit system across the borough. The sub-committee agreed that it should undertake this work following the conclusion the Parking Permit Sub-Group's complementary investigation.

Transport Management System. The sub-committee agreed to reconsider this suggestion following clarification of the topic from Councillor Harrison.

The sub-committee considered the possibility of investigating the sustainability of start-up businesses in North Tyneside. The Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee had received a report on the topic which had raised questions about the rates of start up businesses, their longevity and profitability, their impact on employment and the level of support available, particularly after 12-18 months. The sub-committee agreed to undertake an in-depth investigation into this topic.

The sub-committee had previously examined the impact of the Council's Winter Festival on the economies of the borough's town centres. It was suggested that further work could be undertaken to examine how the marketing of festivals and events could promote footfall and spend in the town centres.

It was agreed that the sub-committee receive monitoring reports in relation to:-

- The Tyne & Wear Bus Strategy
- North East Combined Authority Transport Plan
- Apprenticeships
- Whitley Bay and Wallsend Regeneration
- Nexus Review of Local Transport Services Consultation

It was agreed that a visit be arranged to the Port of Tyne Passenger Terminal on 4 or 6 July 2016, preferably late afternoon.

It was **agreed** that the sub-committee's work programme be formulated on the basis of the topics and decisions set out above.

EP06/06/16 Date and Time of Meetings

The sub-committee was asked to determine the start time and confirm the dates of its remaining meetings in the 2016/17 municipal year to be held on:

- 13 July 2016
- 14 September 2016
- 12 October 2016
- 16 November 2016
- 18 January 2017

15 June 2016

Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee

15 February 2017

15 March 2017

It was **agreed** that dates of the sub-committee's meetings be confirmed and they begin at 6.00pm.

15 June 2016