

(Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee scheduled to be held on 18 July 2017.)

Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee

14 June 2017

Present: Councillor Janet Hunter (Chair)
Councillors S L Cox, K Lee, P Earley,
J Walker and F Weetman.

EP01/06/17 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Madden and M Rankin.

EP02/06/17 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members appointed.

EP03/06/17 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no Declarations of Interest or Dispensations reported.

EP04/06/17 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 15 March 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

EP05/06/17 Transport Strategy (Previous Minute EP27/11/16)

At its meeting on 8 May 2017 the Cabinet had approved 'North Tyneside on the Move - The Transport Strategy for North Tyneside, 2017-32'. A copy of the strategy was submitted to the sub-committee. The strategy had been developed using a wide evidence base, including the comments made by the sub-committee when it had examined the draft strategy document at its meeting on 16 November 2016.

The strategy set out the Council's transport vision and it would be used to shape future decisions, influence sub-regional, regional and national issues, support future funding bids for transport-related projects or initiatives and support the North Tyneside Local Plan. The following transport related policies and strategies were now being reviewed to ensure that they were aligned with the vision and principles set out in the transport strategy:

- Parking Strategy
- Highway Asset Management Plan
- Cycling Strategy
- Travel Safety Strategy
- Network Management Plan.

The supplementary planning document LDD12 relating to transport and highways had already been reviewed, examined by the sub-committee (Minute EP32/01/17) and approved.

The sub-committee were particularly interested in the development of a new parking strategy. It was acknowledged that car parking was a challenging issue as more cars meant parking arrangements were under pressure and the Council had finite resources to address the issues. The development of the strategy was therefore to be focussed on creating a diagnostic toolkit to assess parking problems and inform investment decisions. The sub-committee expressed its wish to contribute to the development of the parking strategy, ahead of its submission to Cabinet for final approval which was anticipated to be in August or September.

The sub-committee queried the extent to which parking charges covered the cost of providing parking facilities and whether there was scope to increase parking revenue. Transport funding tended to be capital rich but revenue poor and so whilst the Council had been able to invest in new infrastructure, for example cycle paths, it also had a responsibility to maintain them.

It was reported that the refurbishment of the Tyne Pedestrian Tunnel was scheduled to be completed by Spring 2018.

The sub-committee considered the implications of Brexit on investment in transport. It was reported that as the majority of funding for transport projects was from central government sources, for now it was business as usual. The transport strategy would assist in preparing bids for any new sources of funding by establishing the Council's strategic principles.

Members sought assurances that delivery of the strategy would complement other plans and strategies such as the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy. In response it was stated that the strategy had flipped the emphasis onto sustainable forms of transport, for example the supplementary planning document LDD12 now placed greater priority on provision for walking and cycling in new developments, ahead of the needs of car users. It was also reported that the transfer of the public health team to the Council had created closer collaboration across the health and transport agendas. For example the sub-committee heard about a project at Cullercoats Primary School to promote cycling among children.

It was **agreed** that (1) the Transport Strategy for North Tyneside 2017-32 "North Tyneside on the Move" be noted; and (2) the emerging cycling and parking strategies be presented to the sub-committee for consideration prior to their submission to the Cabinet for approval.

EP06/06/17 Work Programme 2017/18

The sub-committee gave consideration to the formulation of its work programme for the year ahead. It received a report setting out a draft work programme which had been based on a range of topics identified during a meeting between the Chair and relevant senior officers.

The sub-committee were invited to suggest any others topics relevant to its remit when members suggested:

a) examining provision for young people not in education employment or training (NEETs), which could possibly complement work relating to skills shortages; and

b) examining the Council's strategies for the regeneration of the borough's smaller town centres such as Forest Hall and Dudley.

It was **agreed** that the sub-committee's work programme for 2017/18 be approved subject to the inclusion of the items set out above.

EP06/06/17 Business Support Sub-Group (Previous Minute EP43/03/16)

At its meeting on 12 June 2017 the Cabinet had agreed its response to the report and recommendations of the Business Support Sub Group. The sub-committee were presented with details of Cabinet's response.

It was **agreed** that (1) the Cabinet's response to the report and recommendations of the Business Support Sub Group be noted; and
(2) the sub-committee receive a further report at a future meeting to monitor the implementation of the action to be taken in response to the recommendations.