

Cabinet

15 June 2015

Update on North East Combined Authority Delegated Transport Activity



Report of Corporate Management Team Ian Thompson, Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development Councillor Neil Foster, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To update Cabinet on the transport activity carried out by the Council under delegation from the North East Combined Authority (NECA).

Background

- 2 In April 2014 Cabinet agreed a report in relation to the transfer of transport functions to the Combined Authority and the subsequent delegation back to the Executive in accordance with the Combined Authority's Constitution and Operating Agreement.
- 3 Cabinet agreed to authorise the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development to discharge these transport functions in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder.
- 4 The delegation from NECA back to both Durham and Northumberland recognises the different approach taken by the two counties when compared to Tyne & Wear. The lower financial viability of bus services in rural areas places a greater emphasis on the need for integration between public transport, home to school, adult social care, community transport and health transport.
- 5 A further benefit of the delegation to Durham is that it facilitates integration of transport (including public transport, traffic, parking, network management and development control) alongside other 'place shaping' functions within housing, planning, regeneration and economic development. This approach helps to maximise transport's contribution to improving the wider economy of County Durham. This differs from the arrangements in Tyne & Wear, where a stand-alone organisation (Nexus) coordinates passenger transport.

Reporting to NECA

- 6 The NECA Operating Agreement includes a requirement that the Portfolio Holder will provide reports when required to the Transport North East Committee (TNEC) of NECA, advising on how the delegated functions have been exercised.
- 7 The report at appendix 2 gives a summary of transport activity carried out during 2015. This report was presented to TNEC at its meeting on 28 April 2016.

Recommendations and reasons

- 8 Members are recommended to endorse the contents of this report.

Background papers

Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland Combined Authority Order 2014.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance –

Transport functions carried out by or on behalf of the Combined Authority are funded by a levy raised by the Combined Authority. The revenue funding for passenger transport functions in County Durham (£16.072 million) is transferred from Durham County Council into the Combined Authority; and the Combined Authority in turn transfers the funding back to the Council to cover the discharge of its transport functions.

Staffing –

None specific in this report

Risk –

None specific in this report

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty –

None specific in this report

Accommodation –

None specific in this report

Crime and Disorder –

None specific in this report

Human Rights –

None specific in this report

Consultation –

None specific in this report

Procurement –

None specific in this report

Disability Issues –

None specific in this report

Legal Implications –

None specific in this report