

Gateshead and Newcastle Partnership

14 April 2016 at 3.30pm

Meeting held in the Carlilol Room, Newcastle Civic Centre

Present:

Chair: M Henry, Leader – Gateshead Council

Councillors: Newcastle Council - N Forbes, A Lower, S Powers
Gateshead Council – M Gannon, L Green, M Goldsworthy

In attendance:

P Dowling	- Gateshead Council
Andrew Lewis	- Newcastle City Council
T Durcan	- Newcastle City Council
L Murray	- Gateshead Council
S Stewart	- NewcastleGateshead Initiative
G Smith	- Gateshead and Newcastle Partnership

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Newcastle – Councillors Dunn, Kingsland, McCarty

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 3 September 2015 and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

3. GNP Annual Report 2015

The GNP Annual Report was presented to Members, setting out progress made to foster economic development and manage organisational change in partnership between Gateshead and Newcastle Councils. It also highlighted priority areas of focus and approach for 2016/17, including for NewcastleGateshead Initiative (NGI).

It was noted that Newcastle had made progress to increase student voter registration. It was proposed to extend this work into Gateshead.

It was agreed that the councils should seek to maximise the publicity potential of a launch for the free Wifi offer across the urban core of Gateshead and Newcastle, due to take place in Spring 2016.

RESOLVED – that GNP endorsed the report, and agreed that it be circulated to Councillors across both Authorities.

4. Gateshead and Newcastle Events Programme

Proposals identified major cultural and sporting events that Gateshead, Newcastle and the wider region should consider bidding for.

It was noted that:

- The councils and NGI should consider sponsorship potential and funding opportunities to attract events
- Contribution of events to the wider ‘quality of place’ should be considered
- Opportunities should be explored for conferences and music events
- The legacy of activity and facilities should be a major factor in selecting events to bid for
- Future opportunities for devolution should be considered, including discussions that may be required with Central Government.

RESOLVED – that proposals for a future approach be progressed.

5. NGI Settlement 2016/17

Details of a proposed settlement for council funding to NGI in 2016/17 were presented. This confirmed funding agreed in both councils’ budgets, and set out a work plan agreed by the three organisations, including:

- Context of council funding to NGI in 2016/17.
- Priorities for council funded NGI activity.
- Work programme areas.
- Lead officers.
- Funding (approach and allocation).
- Performance management and accountability.
- Partner agreement.

RESOLVED – that GNP agreed the Settlement letter, to be formally sent to the Chief Executive of NGI from Council Chief Executives.

6. NGI Work Programme 2016/17

Sarah Stewart, Chief Executive of NGI, highlighted key activities that will be delivered by NGI using council funding in 2016/17.

Members expressed their thanks to NGI staff for their on-going contribution to achieve council priorities for destination marketing and to increase the visitor economy.

RESOLVED – that GNP noted the detail of NGI’s work programme.

7. Economic Scorecard

The latest Economic Scorecard for Gateshead and Newcastle set out:

- Latest data for key performance indicators

- News on the economy (developments relating to business and employment)

RESOLVED – that the partnership noted and agreed the Economic Scorecard.

6. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in September 2016 (date and venue TBC).