

Cabinet

11 June 2024

Decision Notice

In accordance with the requirements of the Authority's Constitution, notice is given that Cabinet at its meeting held on 11 June 2024 made the decisions set out below.

These decisions will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 5 working days after the publication of this notice ("the call-in period"), unless a valid request for call-in is received during the call-in period.

This decision notice was published on 11 June 2024. The call-in period will expire at 5pm on Tuesday 18 June 2024.

Further information regarding the Cabinet and its decisions can be obtained from the Authority's website www.northeast-ca.gov.uk or from Michael Robson (email: michael.robson@northeast-ca.gov.uk).

Reference and Title	Decision
C12/6/24 Appointments to the North East Combined Authority's Cabinet, Committees and other bodies	Resolved that: (1) the appointment of Councillor Michael Mordey as a Cabinet Member and Councillors Jane Carter, Kelly Chequer and Alexander Hay as substitute Cabinet Members be noted; (2) the appointment of Councillor Martin Gannon as Deputy Mayor be noted; (3) the allocation of Cabinet portfolios as set out in Appendix 1 of the report of the Monitoring Officer and the schedule of meetings for the municipal year 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 2 be approved; (4) Martin Brookes be appointed as the CVS Member; (5) the Chief Executive be authorised to undertake a process to review the Business Board membership and the proposed appointments be reported to Cabinet for decision at a future meeting; (6) the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in Appendix 3 of the report of the Monitoring Officer be approved; (7) Councillor Colin Ferguson be appointed as Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee; (8) David Willis OBE be appointed as the independent co-opted member and Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee;

	<p>(9) the membership of the Audit and Standards Committee as set out in Appendix 4 of the Monitoring Officers report and including the appointment of Councillor Alison Smith as a substitute member by Sunderland City Council be approved;</p> <p>(10) Eric Richards be appointed as the Independent Person for the purposes of the standards regime; and</p> <p>(11) the appointment of members and substitute members to the Transport for the North's (TfN) Board, Partnership Board, Rail North Committee and General Purposes Committee as set out in Section 5 of the Monitoring Officers report be approved and Councillor Colin Ferguson be appointed as member and Councillor Tracey Dixon as substitute member of the TfN Scrutiny Committee.</p>
<p>C13/6/24 North East Deeper Devolution Deal – Ratification and Next Steps</p>	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>(1) the North East Deeper Devolution Deal be approved;</p> <p>(2) the positive progress in developing the Deal's priorities be noted;</p> <p>(3) £5m of funding allocated by Government for site remediation at the Health Innovation Neighbourhood to Newcastle University, as set out within the Deal, be approved;</p> <p>(4) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor, relevant Portfolio Holders and the Finance and Investment Board, to approve final business cases for the Sunderland Riverside and Forth Yards sites, of up to £25m and £5m respectively, drawn from funding conferred as part of the Deeper Devolution Deal;</p> <p>(5) delegated authority be granted to the Director of Finance and Investment, working closely with colleagues at Sunderland City Council, to complete necessary documentation with Government for the North East Growth Zone at the Riverside Sunderland site, and to agree a subsequent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Sunderland City Council for the use of retained Business Rates;</p> <p>(6) the Director of Finance and Investment, in collaboration with the Director of Finance at Sunderland City Council, be requested to bring forward a proposal for further investment into the Crown Works Studios project, reflecting the transformational opportunity it provides; and</p> <p>(7) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Investment to finalise arrangements associated with delivery of other aspects of the Deeper Devolution Deal, including for the £2m of Revenue Funding, in line with the Combined Authority's normal processes.</p>
<p>C14/6/24 Early Funding Decisions and Investments</p>	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>(1) the investment set out below be approved in principle and delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to enter into the relevant agreements as required, in accordance with the Single Assurance Framework:</p>

	<p>a) £3.211 million to procure electric vehicle charging infrastructure, of which £1.1 million is to be spent by the North East CA through contract awards, and £2.111 million is to be spent by Constituent Authorities through Grant Funding Agreements.</p> <p>b) £17.635 million for the provision of zero emission buses and associated infrastructure to be delivered by local bus operators through Grant Funding Agreements.</p> <p>(2) £2.528m of Investment Funds to cover the North East area contribution to the North East Screen Industries Partnerships in full up to March 2027 be approved.</p> <p>(3) an allocation of up to £2.4m of Investment Funds be approved to extend the North East CA child poverty and education improvement programmes to benefit schools, families, children and young people across all North East CA constituent authorities for the academic year 2024/25, beginning in September; and the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Education, Skills and Inclusion Portfolio, be authorised to approve the final business case and associated funding.</p>
C15/6/24 North East Combined Authority Equality Objectives	Resolved that the equality objectives as set out in Appendix 1 of the Chief Executive's report be adopted.
C16/6/24 North East Combined Authority Borrowing Powers	Resolved that: <p>(1) Cabinet gives its consent to the making by central government of regulations to provide the North East CA with borrowing powers in respect of its functions which do not relate to transport;</p> <p>(2) a debt cap of up to £50m be agreed with central government as the maximum borrowing which the North East CA can undertake for non-transport activity during 2024/25; and</p> <p>(3) the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance and Investment and the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Mayor, be authorised to take all necessary steps to give effect to the recommendations above.</p>
C17/6/24 Former NECA Statement of Accounts 2022-23	Resolved that: <p>(1) the Audit Completion Report and the draft Auditor's Annual Report be noted.</p> <p>(2) the Statement of Accounts 2022/23, including the Narrative Report be approved; and</p> <p>(3) the Director of Finance and Investment, in consultation with the Mayor and Chief Executive, be authorised to agree any final amendments or changes to the former NECA 2022/23 Statement of Accounts and Narrative Report arising from the completion of the audit by the external auditors.</p>
C18/6/24 Devolution of the Adult Education Budget	Resolved that: <p>(1) the proposal as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report of the Head of Skills and Inclusion that 15 providers detailed in Appendix 1 of the report are classified as 'in scope' grant providers be approved and the</p>

	<p>North East CA continue to grant fund them for delivery of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) for the academic year 2024-25 to the value of the AEB allocations that they were in receipt of in the academic year 2022-23. This will result in 15 Grant Funding Agreements with an overall value of £47,125,157, circa 74% of North East CA's AEB funding.</p> <p>(2) the proposal as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report of the Head of Skills and Inclusion to grant fund the 15 providers detailed in Appendix 1 for the delivery of Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) for the academic year 2024-25 to the value of the FCFJ allocations that they were in receipt of in the academic year 2022-23 be approved. This will result in 15 Grant Funding Agreements with an overall value of £2,620,976, circa 66% of North East CA's FCFJ funding.</p> <p>(3) the proposal set out in paragraph 4.6 of the report of the Head of Skills and Inclusion to award contract for services to those providers ranked from the highest evaluation score to the lowest, up to the Lot funding values detailed in Appendix 4 of the report be approved. This will result in 24 contracts for service awards in Lot 1 AEB with an overall value of £15,815,680 and 6 contract for service awards in Lot 2 Free Courses for Jobs with an overall value of £1,997,532.</p> <p>(4) the recommendation set out in paragraph 6.4 of the report of the Head of Skills and Inclusion be approved to utilise circa £2.5m of reserve funding to support transition during the first year of delivery of the AEB.</p> <p>(5) the approach to performance management of the devolved AEB set out in paragraphs 7.1 to 7.5 of the report of the Head of Skills and Inclusion be endorsed;</p> <p>(6) the approach to devolved AEB flexibilities as set out in paragraphs 8.1 to 8.5 of the report of the Head of Skills and Inclusion be endorsed;</p> <p>(7) the proposed next steps to devolved AEB as set out in paragraphs 9.1 to 9.2 of the report of the Head of Skills and Inclusion be endorsed.</p>
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