

Cabinet

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, 6 June 2023 at 2.00 pm

Meeting to be held: Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY

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AGENDA

Page No

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**

Please remember to declare any personal interest where appropriate both verbally and by recording it on the relevant form (to be submitted to the Democratic Services Officer). Please also remember to leave the meeting where any personal interest requires this.

Note: Members of Cabinet have been granted dispensations so that they may participate in decisions which relate to the constituent authority which appointed them.
3. **Any announcements from the Mayor and/or the Chief Executive**
4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** 1 - 4
5. **Appointments to Cabinet, Committees and other bodies** 5 - 16
6. **Scrutiny Annual Report and Review** 17 - 30

7. **North East Devolution - Next Steps**

Members are requested to note the intention to circulate the above report on a supplemental agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

8. **NTCA Corporate Plan: Working Together** **31 - 34**

9. **Equality Objectives Update** **35 - 46**

10. **Investment Fund Update and Funding Approvals**

Members are requested to note the intention to circulate the above report on a supplemental agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

11. **2022/2023 Outturn Position**

Members are requested to note the intention to circulate the above report on a supplemental agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

12. **NTCA Statement of Accounts**

Members are requested to note the intention to circulate the above report on a supplemental agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

13. **North East Local Enterprise Partnership - Funding Decisions Update** **47 - 50**

14. **Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

Tuesday, 25 July 2023 at 2pm.

15. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

Under section 100A and Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 because exempt information is likely to be disclosed and the public interest test against disclosure is satisfied.

16. **North East Local Enterprise Partnership - Funding Decisions Update - Appendices** **51 - 72**

Contact Officer: Victoria Miller
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Minutes

Cabinet

21 March 2023

(4.30 - 5.16 pm)

Meeting held: Committee Room, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH

Present:

Chair: Mayor J Driscoll

Councillors A Hay, C Johnson, K Kilgour, G Sanderson and R Wearmouth, Dame Mayor N Redfearn and Mr M Thompson

Also: Ms L Goodwin (Observer)

64 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor N Kemp.

65 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

66 **ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

There were no additional announcements.

67 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 January 2023 were approved as a correct record.

68 **NTCA ANNUAL REPORT**

Submitted: A report of the Director of Policy and Performance (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the annual report which set out the North of Tyne Combined Authority's (NTCA) work and achievements over the last year. The report included information on how NTCA was delivering its Vision through the three cross-cutting themes of Net Zero Transition, Inclusive Economy and Innovation in Recovery, and across all the delivery themes. The report also included annual updates from the Inclusive Economy Board, the Housing and Land Board and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Group.

The Cabinet welcomed the report.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Cabinet, highlighted the key achievements to date, praised the NTCA approach to working in partnership with regional stakeholders and thanked everyone for their work.

Comments were also made about:

- the outcomes that had been achieved as a result of joint working; and the importance of continuing this approach;
- the NTCA's focus on putting the people of the region at the heart of its work;
- the bright future ahead for the region, despite its traditional portrait as an area with many challenges;
- the work being progressed to achieve a significant improvement of the economy of the region, including within the important modern industries;
- the results achieved in keeping the unemployment down;
- the NTCA's work and achievements as the evidence and example of how decisions could be better when they are taken locally;
- the NTCA's approach to the inclusion of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector; and thanks from the VCSE sector to the Combined Authority for this approach.

Thanks were also offered to members, officers and partners for their work.

The Cabinet then watched a video with the examples of positive changes to people's lives that were enabled as a result of the NTCA's work.

RESOLVED – That "Devolution Delivers", the NTCA annual report, be endorsed; and the work and support of the Inclusive Economy Board, the Housing and Land Board and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Group be noted.

69 **DEVOLUTION UPDATE - PRESENTATION**

Dr H Kippin, the NTCA Chief Executive, delivered a presentation, giving an update on the new Devolution Deal (displayed electronically at the meeting and copy attached to Official Minutes). The Cabinet noted the update.

The Cabinet welcomed the progress achieved. Comments were made about the significant amount of work that had been taken over the years to achieve this progress and that more work was yet to be done. Thanks were offered to everyone for their work, including members, officers and MPs. Special thanks were offered to the past and present Chief Executive Officers of NTCA and the constituent Local Authorities for their lobbying work.

RESOLVED – That the presentation and update be noted.

70 **EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT AND CHILD POVERTY PREVENTION**

Submitted: A report of the Head of Public Sector Innovation (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on the progress of the NTCA Child Poverty Prevention and Education Improvement pilot programmes and sought approval to support the continuation of both programmes of work.

The report was introduced by Councillor K Kilgour, the Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Skills. Thanks were offered to officers for their work and the progress achieved.

The Cabinet welcomed the report. The Mayor suggested that recommendations 2 (a) and 2 (b) should be amended to add “expanded” to the proposals; and the suggestion was supported by the Cabinet.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The progress of the Education Improvement Programme and Child Poverty Prevention Programme for the North of Tyne be noted; and
2. The continuation and expansion of both programmes of work be approved as follows:
 - a) the funding of £1,100,000 for the continuation and expansion of the NTCA Education Improvement Programme be approved; and authority be delegated to the Chief Executive for implementation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder;
 - b) the funding of £1,360,000 for the continuation and expansion of the NTCA Child Poverty Prevention Programme be approved, and authority be delegated to the Chief Executive for implementation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder; and
 - c) Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer to sign off amendments to the programmes if required once delivery had commenced.

71 **DEVOLVED ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET MID-YEAR UPDATE**

Submitted: A report of the Head of Inclusive Growth (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on provision that had been delivered through the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) for the 6-month period from 1 August 2022 to 4 February 2023. The report set out the adult education opportunities that had been created for the NTCA’s residents during the

first half of the current academic year (AY) and outlined next steps in terms of managing the AEB delivery for the remainder of the AY 2022-23. The report also detailed the progress that had been made towards setting up a Post-16 Skills Flexible Procurement Framework to commission skills funding.

The report was introduced by Councillor K Kilgour, the Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Skills.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and thanked members and officers for their work. References were made to the areas of the region that had benefited the most from the NTCA's work on AEB.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. the progress which had been made in terms of AEB delivery for the first half of the academic year (AY) 2022-23 be noted; and the approach to managing AEB delivery for the remainder of this AY be endorsed; and
- ii. the progress in establishing the NTCA Post-16 Skills Flexible Procurement Framework be noted.

72 **NTCA 2021-22 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Submitted: A report of the Director of Finance (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which explained the intention to present the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 and the Annual Governance Statement for 2021-2022 and the reasons for delays, which were associated with the external audit. The report provided an update on progress and set out revised timelines for the conclusion of the audit work.

RESOLVED – That the update on the work to complete the audit of the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Statement of Accounts and Value for Money Conclusion be noted.

73 **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 6 June 2023 at 2pm (Annual Meeting).



Title: Appointments to Cabinet, Committees and other bodies
Report of: Monitoring Officer
Portfolio: All

Report Summary

This report sets out the membership of Cabinet and the proposed appointments to the committees of NTCA and other bodies.

Recommendations

1. note the Cabinet membership set out at Appendix 1(a) and that the Mayor is to appoint a Cabinet member as Deputy Mayor;
2. agree the allocation of Cabinet portfolios set out at Appendix 1(b) and the schedule of meetings for the municipal year 2023/24 set out at Appendix 2;
3. agree the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Standards Committee as set out in Appendix 3;
4. agree to delegate the appointment of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
5. agree the appointment of David Willis OBE as the Chair and independent co-opted member of Audit and Standards Committee;
6. agree to waive the three year term of office restriction in the terms of reference of the Inclusive Economy Board to allow those reaching the end of their three year term to continue to serve for a further year, as set out in paragraph 4.2
7. agree the membership of the Housing and Land Board, the Inclusive Economy Board and the Strategic Partnership Group as set out in appendix 4
8. agree the appointment of members and substitute members to the Joint Transport Committee and the Tyne and Wear Sub-committee as set out in paragraph 6;
9. agree the appointment of members and substitute members to the board of Transport for the North (TfN) and TfN's Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in paragraph 7; and
10. agree the appointment of members to the North East Local Enterprise Partnership Board and Panels as set out in in paragraph 8.
11. approve the appointment of Lisa Goodwin as Mayoral Ambassador for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector for 2023/24 as set out in paragraph 9.

A. Context

1. Cabinet

- 1.1 The table at Appendix 1(a) sets out the members and substitute members which each constituent council and the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP) have appointed to NTCA's Cabinet.

- 1.2 The Mayor of NTCA is the chair of Cabinet. The Mayor must appoint one of the members of Cabinet as his deputy who will be able to exercise his functions and decision-making powers in his absence.
- 1.3 The table at Appendix 1(b) sets out the proposed allocation of Cabinet portfolios to the Cabinet members for Cabinet to consider. A proposed schedule of meetings of Cabinet and other committees for the year ahead is attached as Appendix 2.

2. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)

2.1. The OSC comprises three members from each constituent authority. The composition of the OSC must, so far as reasonably practicable, reflect political balance across the constituent authorities as a whole. Taking account of recent local election results, the distribution of seats is unchanged and as follows:

- Newcastle - 2 Labour; 1 Liberal Democrat
- North Tyneside - 3 Labour
- Northumberland - 2 Conservative; 1 Labour

Substitute members must be appointed on the same basis.

2.2. The proposed membership of the OSC is set out at Appendix 3(a). The Chair of the OSC must be an 'appropriate person', which means an elected member from a group other than the Mayor's group. NTCA's Constitution states that Cabinet shall appoint the Chair of the OSC at its Annual Meeting, although Cabinet has previously delegated this decision to the OSC itself.

3. Audit and Standards Committee (ASC)

3.1. This Committee comprises three members from each constituent authority and one independent co-opted member who chairs the committee. The current independent chair is David Willis OBE, who was appointed by Cabinet in November 2022. It is recommended that Mr Willis continue as Chair for the 2023/24 municipal year. The membership of the ASC must, so far as reasonably practicable, also reflect political balance across the constituent authorities as a whole, which results in the same allocation of seats as set out in paragraph 2.1.

3.2. The proposed membership of the ASC is set out at Appendix 3(b).

4. Housing and Land Board and Inclusive Economy Board

4.1. The Housing and Land and Inclusive Economy Boards are both advisory boards. The proposed membership of the HLB is set out in appendix 4(a) and the membership of the IEB is set out in Appendix 4(b).

4.2. The current terms of reference for the IEB limit members to a term of office for three years. As it is anticipated that the proposed North East Mayoral Combined Authority will be operational in May 2024 and NTCA will have ceased to operate, it is considered expedient to allow those members who have reached the end of their three year term to continue for one more year to maintain that knowledge and experience on the Board as the transition to the proposed new North East Mayoral Combined Authority progresses.

5. Strategic Partnership Group (SPG)

5.1. The SPG is an advisory working group established in response to Government guidance on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The group does not have formal decision-making powers. The proposed membership of the SPG is set out at Appendix 4(c).

5.2. The group is chaired by the Elected Mayor and all nine Members of Parliament in the North of Tyne area are invited to attend. It is made up of a broad range of partners across the area and includes the two Deputy Leaders of Newcastle and Northumberland and the Deputy Mayor of North

Tyneside. In addition to providing strategic oversight and advice at key points throughout different phases of the UKSPF Investment Plan, the group may also act in an advisory capacity to support the development and delivery of other national plans/strategies as Cabinet may request. This provides a collective understanding of the region's challenges, opportunities and strengths and helps ensure more effective and balanced investment to all sectors and communities.

6. Joint Transport Committee (JTC)

- 6.1. NTCA must appoint three of its members to the JTC, one of whom shall be the Elected Mayor unless he agrees otherwise. NTCA must also appoint three substitute members. The following appointments are proposed

JTC Member	Substitute
Councillor Nick Kemp	Councillor Karen Kilgour
Councillor Carl Johnson	Dame Norma Redfearn
Councillor Glen Sanderson	Councillor Richard Wearmouth

- 6.2. NTCA must appoint two members and two substitute members to the Tyne and Wear Sub-committee of the JTC. The following appointments are proposed:

Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee Member	Substitute
Councillor Jane Byrne	Councillor Alex Hay
Councillor Carl Johnson	Councillor Sandra Graham

- 6.3. The JTC also has an Audit Committee and an Overview and Scrutiny Committee; appointments to those committees are made by each of the NTCA constituent authorities.

7. Transport for the North (TfN)

- 7.1. NTCA appoints one member and one substitute member to TfN's Board. The following appointments are proposed:

Board Member	Substitute
Mayor Jamie Driscoll	Councillor Nick Kemp

- 7.2. NTCA appoints one member and one substitute member to TfN's Scrutiny Committee. The following appointments are proposed:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Member	Substitute
Councillor Barry Flux	Councillor Richard Wearmouth

- 7.3. There are also two further Boards at Transport for the North; the General Purposes Committee and Rail North. Appointments to those two bodies are made by the Joint Transport Committee.

8. North East LEP

- 8.1. NTCA appoints three members (one of whom is to be vice chair) and one observer to the North East LEP Board and one member to the North East LEP Advisory Boards/Panels. The following appointments as NTCA representatives are proposed:

Board/Panel	NTCA Representative
North East LEP Board	Councillor Nick Kemp Mayor Norma Redfearn (Vice Chair) Mayor Jamie Driscoll Councillor Richard Wearmouth (Observer)
Business Growth Board	Councillor Richard Wearmouth
Skills Advisory Panel	Councillor Karen Kilgour
Investment Board	Councillor Carl Johnson

9. Mayoral Ambassador for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector

- 9.1. The process for appointing Mayoral Ambassadors was agreed by Cabinet in March 2021. Lisa Goodwin, Chief Executive of Connected Voice, was approved as the Mayoral Ambassador for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector by Cabinet on 20 September 2022
- 9.2. NTCA's VCSE Stakeholder Engagement Group have, in consultation with the Mayor as co-chair, nominated Lisa Goodwin to continue in her role as Mayoral Ambassador for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector for 2023/24.

B. Impact on NTCA Objectives

The appointments are in line with the Authority's Constitution and decision-making arrangements and will enable the Authority to properly discharge its functions and assist in delivering the Authority's vision, policies and priorities.

C. Key risks

Appointments to the committees, boards and bodies detailed in this report are necessary to ensure the Authority carries out its functions efficiently and properly.

D. Financial and other resources implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report

E. Legal implications

The Monitoring Officer is the author of this report and the proposals reflect the requirements of the provisions of NTCA's Constitution

F. Equalities implications

There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

G. Inclusive Economy and Wellbeing implications

There are no direct inclusive economy and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

H. Climate Change implications

There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

I. Consultation and engagement

The appointments to the Cabinet have been authorised by the constituent councils and Cabinet members have been consulted on the proposals in this report.

J. Appendices

Appendix 1(a)	Cabinet and substitute members
Appendix 1(b)	Cabinet portfolios
Appendix 2	Schedule of meetings for 2022/23
Appendix 3(a)	Membership of Audit and Standards Committee
Appendix 3(b)	Membership of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Appendix 4(a)	Membership of Housing and Land Board
Appendix 4(b)	Membership of Inclusive Economy Board
Appendix 4(c)	Membership of Strategic Partnership Group

K. Background papers

Mayoral Ambassadors Review Cabinet Report, 23 March 2021
Appointment of VCSE Ambassador Report, Cabinet 20 September 2022.
NTCA Constitution

L. Contact officer(s)

John Softly, Monitoring Officer
john.softly@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

(a) Cabinet Membership and substitute members

Cabinet Member	Substitute Member	Appointing Authority
Mayor Jamie Driscoll		Elected Mayor of NTCA
Councillor Nick Kemp	Councillor Alex Hay	Newcastle City Council
Councillor Karen Kilgour	Councillor Irim Ali	Newcastle City Council
Councillor Carl Johnson	Councillor Sandra Graham	North Tyneside Council
Dame Norma Redfearn (and NTCA Deputy Mayor)	Councillor Janet Hunter	North Tyneside Council
Councillor Glen Sanderson	Councillor John Riddle	Northumberland County Council
Councillor Richard Wearmouth	Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson	Northumberland County Council
Lucy Winskell OBE	Mark Thompson	North East LEP
Observer		
Lisa Goodwin		VCSE Ambassador

(b) Cabinet Portfolios

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio
NTCA Mayor Jamie Driscoll	Social economy and communities
Councillor Nick Kemp	Jobs, innovation and growth
Councillor Carl Johnson	Investment and resources
Councillor Karen Kilgour	Education, inclusion and skills
Mayor Norma Redfearn	Housing, land and development
Councillor Glen Sanderson	Culture, creative and rural
Councillor Richard Wearmouth	Clean energy and connectivity

NTCA Programme of Committee Meetings, Municipal Year 2023/2024

Committee	Day/ time	2023							2024				
		Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Cabinet	Tue at 2pm	6 Ann.	25		26		28		30		12		
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Tue at 1pm		11			10		5	16*		19		
Audit and Standards Committee	Tue at 10am		4		19				23			23	

Location of meetings: Meetings will take place at various publicly accessible venues within the Combined Authority's area.

*This will be a workshop on the budget proposals and not a formal committee meeting.

(a) Membership of Audit and Standards Committee

Members	Substitute Members	Appointing Authority
Councillor Charlie Gray Councillor Adam Walker Councillor Colin Ferguson	Councillor [vacancy] Councillor [vacancy] Councillor Greg Stone	Newcastle City Council
Councillor Tommy Mulvenna Councillor Anthony McMullen Councillor Jane Shaw	Councillor Willie Samuel Councillor Janet Hunter Councillor Brian Burdis	North Tyneside Council
Councillor Gordon Castle Councillor Colin Hardy Councillor Mary Murphy	Councillor John Beynon Councillor Catherine Seymour Councillor Lynne Grimshaw	Northumberland County Council

(b) Membership of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Members	Substitute Members	Appointing Authority
Councillor Linda Wright Councillor Steve Fairlie Councillor Greg Stone	Councillor Rebecca Shatwell Councillor David Wood Councillor Thom Campion	Newcastle City Council
Councillor Peter Earley Councillor John Harrison Councillor Jim Montague	Councillor Louise Marshall Councillor Matt Wilson Councillor Karen Clark	North Tyneside Council
Councillor Barry Flux Councillor Catherine Seymour Councillor Caroline Ball	Councillor Colin Hardy Councillor Gordon Stewart Councillor Les Bowman	Northumberland County Council

(a) Membership of Housing and Land Board

Name	Representing	Title/Organisation
Dame Norma Redfearn	Chair of the Housing and Land Board; Deputy Mayor of the North of Tyne Combined Authority and Lead for Housing for North of Tyne CA	North Tyneside Council
Stephen Bell	Representative from voluntary sector/ homelessness issues	Chief Executive – Changing Lives
Prof Glenda Cook	Representative from health sector	Professor of Nursing, Northumbria University
Mayor Jamie Driscoll	Elected Mayor of the North of Tyne Combined Authority	North of Tyne Combined Authority
Paul Fiddaman	Representative from the National Housing Federation	Chief Executive – Karbon Homes
John Godfrey	Representative from Institutional Investors	Director of Corporate Affairs – Legal & General
Will Gardner	Representative from the National Housing Federation	Development Director – Home Group
Dominic Smith	Representative from the Home Builders Federation	Strategic Land Manager – Barrat Homes
Councillor Peter Jackson	Representative for rural interests	Northumberland County Council
Councillor Alex Hay	NTCA Constituent Authority	Newcastle City Council
Chris Norris	Representative from private landlords	Director of Policy of National Residential Landlords Association
Councillor Colin Hardcastle	NTCA Constituent Authority	Northumberland County Council
Pam Smith	Lead Chief Executive for Housing for North of Tyne CA	North of Tyne Combined Authority
Mike Keaveney	Representative from institutional private landlords	Director of Land & Development Grainger plc
Duncan Sutherland	Homes England	Board Member, Homes England

(b) Membership of Inclusive Economy Board (cont. over page)

Name	Representing	Title/Organisation
Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson	Chair	
Carol Botten	North East LEP	VONNE and North East LEP
Katherine Cowell	Education Representative	Regional Schools Commissioner
Lynn Cramman	Business Representative	Cobalt Business Park
Councillor Wayne Daley	NTCA Constituent Authority	Northumberland County Council
Jamie Driscoll	North of Tyne Mayor	
Councillor Steven Phillips	NTCA Constituent Authority	North Tyneside Council

Name	Representing	Title/Organisation
Liz Blackshaw	Trade Union Representative	TUC
Alan Ferguson	Business Representative	Fergusons Transport
Sarah Glendinning	Business Representative	Confederation of British Industry
Katie Schmuecker	Civil Society Representative	Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Jessica Hodgson	Government Representative	Department for Work and Pensions
Alex Jarvis	Government Representative	Cities & Local Growth Unit, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
Councillor Karen Kilgour	NTCA Portfolio Lead Education, Inclusion and Skills (and Vice Chair)	NTCA and Newcastle City Council
Rhona Knox	Business Representative	Proctor & Gamble
Audrey Kingham	NTCA Constituent Authorities Officer Representative	Director of Children's Services and Executive Director of Education and Skills for Northumberland County Council
Lisa Goodwin MBE	Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) Representative	Connected Voice
Prof. Mark Shucksmith OBE	Education Representative	Newcastle University and Carnegie UK
Ross Smith	Business Representative	Northumbria Water
Rhiannon Bearne	Business Representative	North East of England Chamber of Commerce
Marianne Whitfield	Digital/Technology Sector Representative	MSP
Lord Victor Adebawale CBE	Health Representative	NHS Confederation

4 (c) Membership of the Strategic Partnership Group

Name	Sector	Position
Mayor Jamie Driscoll	NTCA	North of Tyne Mayor
Dr Henry Kippin	NTCA	Chief Executive, NTCA
Ruth Redfern	NTCA	Director of Policy and Performance
Janice Gillespie	NTCA	Director of Finance /SRO
Cllr Richard Wearmouth	Northumberland County Council	Deputy Leader
Cllr Carl Johnson	North Tyneside Council	Deputy Mayor
Cllr Karen Kilgour	Newcastle City Council	Deputy Leader

Name	Sector	Position
Sarah Glendinning	Business Representative	CBI
John McCabe	Business Representative	North East Chamber of Commerce
Imran Ghafoor	Business/Private Sector	FIG Enterprises Ltd (North of Tyne Growth Panel Member)
Tony Quinn	Business/Private Sector (Offshore)	ORE Catapult
Ammar Mirza	Business/Private Sector	Chair, Asian Business Connections and NELEP Board Member
Professor Mark Shucksmith	Higher Ed/Rural and Inclusive Economy/Wellbeing	Professor at Newcastle Uni; member of IE Board; co-chaired the NTCA Wellbeing Framework
Lucy Winskell OBE	North East Local Enterprise Partnership and Higher Education	Chair of NELEP Board.
Dan Monnery	Higher Education	Director of Strategic Planning, Northumbria University
Mark Thomson	NELEP Board Deputy	Ryder Architects and Deputies for LEP Chair on NTCA Cabinet
Alex Jarvis	Government department representation	Cities and Local Growth Unit, BEIS/DLUHC
Elaine Armstrong	Government department representation	DWP
Dr Meryl Batchelder	Green Representative	UN Climate Change Ambassador/Teacher
Olivia Grant	Skills	Chair of Newcastle Futures
Tamsin Hart Jones	Quango - Housing	Homes England (Head of Service)
Steve McKinlay	Housing Association	Chief Executive, Tyne Housing, lead for the Housing Employment Network
Carol Botten	VCSE	VONNE, CX (also on Inclusive Economy Board; North East Skills Advisory Panel)
Lisa Goodwin	VCSE	Connected Voice
Andy Dean	Rural	Community Action Northumberland (CAN)
Debbie Bailey	Education	CEO NEAT (Newcastle East Academies Trust)

Name	Sector	Position
Wendy Burke	Health	Director of Public Health, North Tyneside
Claire Riley	Health	North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NE&NC ICB) – Executive Director of Corporate Governance, Communications and Involvement
Scott Bullock	Further Education	Principal, Newcastle College
Dr Lindsey Whiterod	Further Education	Chief Executive of Tyne Coast College
Ellen Thinnesen	Skills/Education	Chief Exec of Education Partnership North East which includes Northumberland College (also Chair of North East Skills Advisory Panel)
Rachel Snaith	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	Director of Commissioning and Policy (Improving Lives), OPCC.
Jane Robinson	Higher Ed + NE Culture Partnership	Pro-Vice Chancellor, Engagement, Newcastle University
Sarah Green	Tourism and Destination Management Organisation	Chief Exec, NGI
Baroness Tanni Grey Thompson	Inclusive economy	Chair of NTCA Inclusive Economy Board
Paul Nelson	Green – until NT have established the Green Partnership	North Tyneside Council/ Green Strategy
Andrew Foster	Charitable Sector	Newcastle United Foundation



Report Summary

The report informs Cabinet of the work of NTCA's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2022/23.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to

1. Note and make any comments on the Annual Scrutiny Report.
2. Note that the use of the urgent decision power has been used once in the 2022/23 municipal year.

A. Context

1. Annual Scrutiny Report

1.1 Effective scrutiny arrangements are an essential component of local democracy, enhancing accountability and transparency of decision making and enabling local councillors to represent the views of their constituents. The NTCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee was established to enable local Councillors, on behalf of their communities, to scrutinise and challenge the Cabinet and the Mayor and to consider matters of strategic importance to residents within the North of Tyne area with a view to influencing their decisions.

1.2 The Centre for Public Scrutiny's (now known as the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny) Good Scrutiny Guide and the Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny Committees refer to an Annual Scrutiny Report. Whilst the context of the reference relates to local authorities and the importance of ensuring that Council and not just the Executive are aware of the work of Overview and Scrutiny, for Combined Authorities the Statutory Guidance states:

"In order to maintain awareness of scrutiny at the Combined Authority and provoke dialogue and discussion of its impact, the business of scrutiny should be reported to the Combined Authority board" (paragraph 11 j).

1.3 The Annual Scrutiny report is intended to illustrate to the public and Cabinet the Committee's approach to its work in 2022/23, how the committee has developed and the impact it has made.

1.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the Annual Report at its meeting on 14 March 2023 and for the report to be submitted to Cabinet in June 2023 for its information.

1.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report is attached as appendix A.

2. Urgent Decisions Taken in 2022/23

2.1. NTCA's Cabinet Rules of Procedure ("Standing Orders") provide, where a decision needs to be taken urgently and it is not practical to convene a quorate meeting of the Cabinet, then the Head of Paid Service is authorised to take that decision. Standing Orders also provide that the use of such urgent action powers shall be the subject of an annual report to Cabinet.

2.2. In accordance with the Cabinet-Scrutiny Protocol, decisions taken under any of the urgency provisions are also reported to the last Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of the municipal year.

- 2.3. One Urgent Decision has been made by NTCA this municipal year on 9 March 2023. It related to Capital Funding Allocations with a decision on how the money was to be allocated required urgently due to the approaching end of the financial year. The procedures required under the Urgent Decision Procedures as set out in Paragraph 30 of Part 3.1 Cabinet Rules of Procedure in the Constitution were completed and the associated documentation can be viewed on NTCA's website. This was reported to the 14 March 2023 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.4. NTCA is the accountable body of the North East LEP and as such the urgent decision process also applies to its decisions. No urgent decisions were made by the North East LEP in 2022/23.

B. Impact on NTCA Objectives

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee can investigate, influence, report and recommend ways to strengthen policies, improve services, ensure best value for money and secure long-lasting positive benefits for local people.

C. Key risks

There are no specific risks relating to this report.

D. Financial and other resources implications

There are no direct financial or resource implications arising from this report.

E. Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising directly from this report.

F. Equalities implications

There are no direct equalities implications arising out of the recommendations in this report. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is mindful of its duty under the Public Sector Equality Duty and when undertaking scrutiny of a particular topic looks to see that any policy/event/decision eliminates discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advances equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and fosters good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and also considers the implications for people from different socio-economic backgrounds/low pay as a protected characteristic.

G. Inclusive Economy and Wellbeing implications

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is mindful of the NTCA's inclusive economy ambitions and the five characteristics of an inclusive economy: participation; equity; growth; stability and sustainability and when undertaking scrutiny of a particular topic looks to see that any policy/event/decision has taken these fully into account.

H. Climate Change implications

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is mindful that the NTCA's and the three constituent Local Authorities have declared a Climate Emergency and when undertaking scrutiny of a particular topic looks to see that any policy/event/decision has taken climate change fully into account.

I. Consultation and engagement

The Chair and Vice Chair have been consulted on the production of the annual report and are consulted on key decisions which are being taken without 28 days notice; 'general exception' and 'special urgency' decisions. This process is set out in the NTCA Constitution. The Committee

agreed its Annual Report at its meeting on 14 March 2023 and had been informed of the Urgent Decision at the time it was made.

J. Appendices

Appendix A NTCA Annual Scrutiny Report 2022/23

K. Background papers

NTCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme 2022/23

[Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities](#)

[Centre for Public Scrutiny \(now the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny\) Good Scrutiny Guide](#)

[The Combined Authorities \(Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees\) Order 2017](#)

[NTCA Constitution](#)

[Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held 14 March 2023](#)

[Capital Funding Decision Record and Special Urgency Exemption Notice 9 March 2023](#)

L. Contact officer(s)

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M. Glossary

NTCA North of Tyne Combined Authority

CfGS Centre for Governance and Scrutiny

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Foreword from the Chair

Welcome to the 2022-23 Annual Report from the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA). This report highlights the work carried out by the committee over the last year.



As Chair I was pleased to be re-elected, that is an honour and privilege, and I thank the Vice Chair, committee and substitute members for their work, commitment and support. I also thank the Mayor, NTCA officers and those from our constituent local authorities and partner organisations for keeping us informed of the progress of their work and support.

Our committee scrutiny process is a vital check and balance to how we spend public money. We can investigate, influence and recommend on ways to strengthen policies, improve services, ensure best value for money and secure positive change for local people.

The work and dedication during these years of the Combined Authority has resulted in NTCA having effective governance, a proactive and collaborative Cabinet-Scrutiny relationship. We have worked well together on effective cross-party work of the NTCA that represent the three local authorities.

Finally, we have a big year ahead with the proposed Devolution Deal with seven authorities in the North East that has been 'minded' to approve and consultation has begun. If the responses show support for this proposal our Overview and Scrutiny Committee will keep an eye on developments and use its experience to assist in the development of the proposals for new Scrutiny arrangements and procedures to ensure these will benefit all our communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Catherine Seymour".

Councillor Catherine Seymour
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members 2022/23



Councillor John Beynon
Northumberland County
Council



Cllr Les Bowman
Northumberland County
Council



Cllr Stephen Fairlie
Newcastle City Council



Cllr John Harrison
North Tyneside Council



Councillor Joe Kirwin
North Tyneside Council



Cllr Catherine Seymour
Chair
Northumberland County Council



Cllr Jane Shaw
North Tyneside Council



Cllr Greg Stone
Newcastle City Council



Cllr Linda Wright
Vice Chair
Newcastle City Council

The Scrutiny Year

In a Mayoral Combined Authority there are three points of power and accountability – the directly elected Mayor; the NTCA Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which holds both to account. All three being accountable to the local people. All should have priorities which are broadly aligned. For decision-makers, this should mean that their activities reflect a collective vision for the future of the area; for scrutiny, this is about ensuring that the focus of the function engages closely with that vision.

This fact is why the function of scrutiny in an MCA differs from that of a local authority. Combined authority working is about long-term strategy; the delivery of services is not the dominant feature as is the case for local authorities. The scope and nature of overview and scrutiny must, therefore, look very different.

North of Tyne has one Overview and Scrutiny Committee which can investigate, influence, report and recommend ways to strengthen policies, improve services, ensure best value for money and secure long-lasting positive benefits for local people.

Councillor Catherine Seymour, from Northumberland County Council, was re-appointed the Chair of the Committee at the beginning of the municipal year in June 2022 and welcomed some new faces to the committee.

The work programme agreed by the committee at its July meeting has been met, including scrutiny of NTCA's Annual Report and Corporate Plan; the UK Shared Prosperity Fund; the work of NTCA on poverty, including the Poverty Truth Commission and child poverty; the work of the North East LEP; the Investment Fund, budget monitoring and the budget proposals. In addition the Mayor and Cabinet Members have attended a meeting of the committee to present an update on their work and answer questions from members.

Attendance at the meetings in the year has been good with the participation of substitute members when required, however there was one inquorate meeting in December 2022. The meeting only needed one more member to attend to be quorate and whilst noted, it is not anticipated to be a regular occurrence.

Members of the committee have been kept informed of progress of the work of the NTCA, other meetings in the region and matters of interest by regular Scrutiny Briefings. As the committee has four meetings a year this is particularly useful in keeping members informed between formal meetings.

Members of the public, Councillors or officers can make suggestions for issues to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the future by emailing the team at scrutiny@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

Details of all matters considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can be viewed on the NTCA website at <https://www.northoftyne-ca.gov.uk/who-we-are/committees/>

Holding Decision Makers to Account

The Elected Mayor, Jamie Driscoll, attended the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October. He presented information regarding the delivery of programmes and projects; the Combined Authority's collaborative approach to work and the level of innovation achieved; the challenges being incurred and their impact, and the Combined Authority's dedication to driving improvements for the region. Members questioned the Mayor on Investment Zones; retrofitting; the local growth fund and the work towards a new devolution deal; transport and electric vehicles infrastructure; and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

Regular meetings between the Mayor and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are held to allow them to discuss issues and consider the NTCA Forward Plan.

At each meeting of the committee this year a Cabinet member has attended to provide an update on their portfolio area of work and the agendas for these meetings have been focused on areas within their portfolios. This year the committee has had the opportunity to scrutinise, in addition to the Mayor, the Education, Inclusion and Skills; Culture, Creative and Rural; and the Housing, Land and Development portfolios.

Each report to the committee includes a paragraph which demonstrates how the project/policy/decision relates to or impacts on NTCA's inclusive economy ambitions; equalities; climate change; and consultation and engagement. All additional information requested at meetings has been provided in a timely and comprehensive manner and officers who have attended the meetings or been requested to provide information have actively engaged with the committee and the scrutiny process.

Pre-scrutiny work

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and nationally provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. Government provided NTCA a non-competitive allocation of £51.2m for the North of Tyne area for delivery across Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland.

At the July 2022 meeting the committee received information from the NTCA Chief Executive and Director of Finance on the process and work underway to shape the Authority's approach to the UKSPF and NTCA's plans and intentions for the Investment Plan prior to its submission to government for approval by August 2022.

The committee had the opportunity to consider the proposed investment principles, the objectives, proposed priorities and interventions and anticipated outcomes.

Members comments and suggestion were noted by officers and fed into the documents which were submitted by the deadline and approved by Government on 5 December 2022.

The NTCA Budget 2021-2022

In accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Rules of Procedure (Part 3.2 of the Constitution) Cabinet must present to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the budget setting process, the initial proposals and have regard to any recommendations and/or observations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee when finalising the Authority's budget.

At its October 2022 meeting the Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on the 2023-27 Financial Planning and Budget Process which provided information on the Authority's Financial Planning and Budget Process for 2023/24 as part of the proposed framework for the four years 2023/24 to 2026/27.

Cabinet met on 22 November 2022 to consider the initial draft budget for NTCA for 2023/24 and the medium-term financial plan for the period 2024/25 to 2026/27. On 6 December 2022 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee met to receive the draft budget proposals and accompanying information which included a draft budget in respect of the Corporate Budget, Investment Fund, Adult Education Budget and the Brownfield Housing Fund. As NTCA is the accountable body for the North East LEP and Invest North East England (INEE) the report also included those proposals.

As part of its scrutiny of the budget the committee held a workshop on 17 January 2023 to consider the updated proposals and receive information on the feedback provided during the consultation from the public, the business community and the community and voluntary sector. The Director of Finance attended the workshop to provide information and to answer any questions

The Committee was disappointed to note that the engagement by the public in the budget setting process had not improved since last year and acknowledged that it was a challenge. The committee encouraged officers to consider using existing face to face opportunities to engage with people about the work of NTCA and what its budget might entail and of tailoring consultation exercises to the different audience. The Director of Finance assured the committee that increasing public engagement was important to the team and consideration of different approaches would be undertaken for the next consultation exercise.

Overall the committee was satisfied with the budget proposals and made no recommendations on the individual elements. At Cabinet on 31 January 2023 Cabinet noted the committee's comments.

Relationship Building

The meetings between the Chair and Vice Chair of the committee and the Mayor have continued and by the end of the municipal year, five informal meetings to discuss the Forward Plan and the work of the NTCA will have taken place. This regular discussion helps to keep the committee informed of progress being made on projects between formal meetings and creates a good working relationship between scrutiny and the executive.

As the Accountable Body for the North East LEP, the Chair, Lucy Winskell O.B.E, and the Chief Executive, Helen Golightly, have both stated a willingness to share

information and present to the committee when required and attended the October meeting of the committee.

The committee intended to invite the Mayoral Ambassador for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector to a meeting but this was deferred as a new Ambassador was appointed mid-year. The invitation to the new Ambassador will be renewed for the 2023/24 municipal year.

Further North East Devolution

The publication of the Levelling Up White Paper at the beginning of February 2022 had trailed further north east devolution and the announcement of a North East Devolution Deal was anticipated from the beginning of the 2022/23 municipal year, eventually being formally announced on 28 December 2022.

The Committee had received information about the progress being made throughout the year and dedicated time at the budget workshop in January 2023 to discuss the proposed deal, the next steps and the role of the committee in the process. NTCA's Chief Executive, Dr Henry Kippin, gave a presentation and answered questions.

Whilst the formal next steps and decisions to be made are for each of the constituent authorities of the proposed new mayoral combined authority to make, the committee will keep an eye on developments and use their experience as a combined authority overview and scrutiny committee to inform conversations around the proposals for the new scrutiny arrangements and procedures.

Looking Forward

The publication of a new North East Devolution Deal with the proposal to have a new North East Mayoral Combined Authority created and a Mayor elected in May 2024 will be a key factor in developing the work programme for the next year. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will need to decide whether to focus its work on reflecting and reviewing the work undertaken to inform what may come for the proposed North East Mayoral Combined Authority or to ensure that the work of NTCA continues to be focussed and offer value for money and change for the people of the region or a bit of both.

The progress being made in the delivery of the UKSPF Investment Fund allocation and its achievements against expected outcomes will also be of interest to the committee for 2023/24.

Once the committee membership is appointed for 2023-24 a workshop will be held to discuss the work programme and ways of working for the year ahead and set its own priorities.

Useful Websites



[North of Tyne Combined Authority](#)

[North East Devolution Deal](#)

[Centre for Governance and Public Scrutiny](#)

[Local Government Association](#)

[North East Combined Authority](#)

[The North East Local Enterprise Partnership](#)

Contact Officers

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Report Summary

This is a cover report to introduce NTCA's updated Corporate Plan for the 2023/2024 municipal year. The 2021/22 Corporate Plan, which was NTCA's first, set the direction for delivery across the NTCA for the three years until 2024. This plan is the final corporate plan of this combined authority and anticipates the formation of the new North East Mayoral Combined Authority in May 2024.

The 2023/2024 Plan, developed through co-design with Cabinet, officers and partners, builds on the progress made against the agreed priorities. It refreshes the context and provides an overview of content, outlining NTCA's ambitions and delivery priorities within its seven delivery portfolios and three cross cutting themes for the year ahead. The Corporate Plan will form an appendix to the report.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to acknowledge and endorse the Corporate Plan for 2023/24, its ambitions and delivery priorities.

A. Context

1. Working Together

- 1.1 The Corporate Plan has been developed through a process of co-design with Cabinet, officers and NTCA's partners. It plays a key role in ensuring our funding and resources are used effectively and efficiently - adding maximum value and delivering with impact.
- 1.2 The Plan sets out the ambitions of Cabinet for the authority for the year ahead with a roadmap for action. It captures the breadth of work undertaken and ensures activities are aligned allowing for clear collaborative working.
- 1.3 The Plan will drive the work programme that in turn feeds into both team plans and individual personal objectives, creating a 'golden thread' from Cabinet's vision to day-to-day delivery.
- 1.4 Importantly the plan is rooted in our values, which underpin the way the authority works and outlines our approach to managing wisely the resources, funding and investment we have available.
- 1.5 The Plan is structured around seven delivery portfolios and three cross cutting themes, bringing together in single cohesive plan commitments in our devolution deal, manifesto and recovery plan. The Corporate Plan is set out in Appendix A.

2. The Year Ahead

- 2.1. The proposed North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA) anticipates a Mayoral election in May 2024. Until then, the important work of the North of Tyne Combined Authority continues with projects and programmes to be delivered. Work will also be undertaken to ensure a smooth transition of continuing programmes into the new organisation.

B. Impact on NTCA Objectives

The Corporate Plan illustrates how NTCA will meet the priorities set out in the Authority's vision to create a dynamic and inclusive economy for all.

C. Key risks

There are no specific risks relating to this report.

D. Financial and other resources implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The corporate plan sets out the work programme of the authority to deliver against Cabinet's ambitions and priorities and informs the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

E. Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising directly from this report.

F. Equalities implications

The NTCA is mindful of its duty under the Public Sector Equality Duty and adopted Equalities Objectives in 2021 to enable it to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and those who do not. NTCA's Equalities Objectives centre on workforce diversity; staff confidence around equalities; employment levels amongst groups experiencing disadvantage; in-work poverty in the North of Tyne area; and co-design and co-production.

Through its work NTCA will also continue to promote policies and decision making which eliminates discrimination, harassment and victimisation and fosters good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. NTCA considers the implications for people from different socio-economic backgrounds/low pay as a protected characteristic.

G. Inclusive Economy and Wellbeing implications

NTCA's inclusive economy ambitions and the five characteristics of an inclusive economy: participation; equity; growth; stability and sustainability are strongly reflected in the Corporate Plan.

H. Climate Change implications

The North of Tyne Combined Authority and all three constituent Local Authorities have declared a Climate Emergency; the impact of the NTCA's decisions on climate is taken into account and its work in this area is clearly reflected in the Corporate Plan.

I. Consultation and engagement

The Mayor, Cabinet and the whole NTCA team have been involved in the formulation of the Corporate Plan. The NTCA is a collaborative and supportive team and the Corporate Plan are aligned with the internal work programme, outcomes and spend so each team can see how their individual effort contributes to the whole.

J. Appendices

Appendix A: Corporate Plan 2023/24 (to follow)

K. Background papers

NTCA Corporate Plan 2021/22

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Title: Equality Objectives Update
Report of: Director of Policy and Performance
Portfolio: Social Economy and Communities

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with its second annual update on NTCA's performance against its Equality Objectives 2021-25

The Combined Authority continues to make progress in this area, in the face of a challenging external environment, with many projects and initiatives clearly focusing on equality, diversity, inclusion and poverty reduction, in line with our Equality Objectives. Staff confidence and awareness of equalities is high with more training and clearer processes in progress. We are helping more women, black and minority ethnic residents, and disabled people on the pathway to well-paid, secure jobs in line with our good work ambitions and we are working with local authorities, partner organisations and residents to not only consult on our plans of work but to build and deliver programmes collaboratively.

In the midst of the cost-of-living crisis, a clear focus on poverty and inequality is more important than ever, with poverty levels in our region remaining an overriding concern.

Recommendations

The Cabinet is recommended to accept the amendments to the Equalities and Diversity Policy (Appendix A) and note the progress made on NTCA's Equality Objectives and wider equality and diversity ambitions.

Foreword from the Economy and Equalities Report 2022-23

In November 2018, the Combined Authority agreed a deal with Government which secured a significant transfer of power, funding, and resources to the area to help unlock the potential within the region.

The North of Tyne Inclusive Economy Policy Statement highlights some of the key challenges residents face, disparities in employment opportunities, earnings and skills and qualification levels. It cannot be ignored that, whilst we have huge economic disparities between our region and the most affluent parts of the country, there are also inequalities within the area which need to be addressed.

NTCA published its first Corporate Plan in 2021, with a drive on changing lives for the better, especially for the most marginalized in the region. Within the Education, Inclusion and Skills portfolio sits the £25m per year Adult Education Budget, alongside employment and skill-based programmes which play an integral role in shaping the future of residents, especially those who are young or vulnerable. This ensures that all work is underpinned by people, communities, and inclusive economic growth.

NTCA delivered on its ambitious vision, and in 2022 we:

- secured over 4,635 new jobs in the pipeline for growing businesses;
- delivered 34,526 courses for people to get good jobs;
- supported 242 carers to move closer to the job market;
- supported 189 schools tackling inequality in attainment and poverty.

The Equalities Report of 2021 was published when COVID-19 was at its height, where the North East faced the worst consequences. Since then, the rising cost of living has hit NTCA residents significantly, especially those with protected characteristics where inequalities were already exacerbated by the ongoing effects of the pandemic. Following this, the 2022 report showed some improvements in spheres, through the disability pay gap reducing by almost 50%, however other groups of residents have experienced a sharp increase in unemployment, with the number of unemployed people from ethnic minorities at the highest level in the last decade.

A. Context

1. Background Information

- 1.1 In June 2021 Cabinet formally approved our first set of equality objectives. NTCA is obliged to prepare, publish and report on these objectives under the Public Sector Equality Duty (April 2011) which requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to achieve the objectives of the Equality Act 2010. The objectives of the Act are for public bodies to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out activities.
- 1.2 NTCA worked in partnership with the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to develop objectives which reflected national good practice and covered both the responsibilities and expectations of our staff, and our ambitions for a more inclusive economy in the North of Tyne. This means an area where economic opportunity is available to all and NTCA's policies, programmes and projects all seek to consider and actively address different experiences of economic exclusion and disadvantage based on people's sex or gender, ethnic background or race, disability or age, as well as other equalities characteristics.
- 1.3 NTCA also formally adopted the socio-economic duty within our equalities and diversity policy, committing us to implementing additional responsibilities in relation to poverty and inequality under Section 1 of the 2010 Equality Act. This means that as a public authority we recognise that low or insecure income or living in a deprived area can have a direct and significant impact on people's life chances and outcomes in relation to jobs, learning and health. Our equality objectives make a public statement about our understanding of these issues and help make NTCA accountable for delivering work and interventions which help people who are furthest from opportunities to have a stake in the North of Tyne.

2. Progress Against Objectives

- 2.1 In line with good practice and advice from the EHRC, NTCA agreed and published five corporate equality objectives in June 2021. The objectives were intended to describe NTCA's understanding of how protected characteristics and socio-economic disadvantage relate to disparities of economic experience and outcomes, as well as defining specific targets to drive performance in line with our ambitions for a more inclusive economy. The objectives, initial baselines and our performance against them is given below.
- 2.2 **Objective 1: Work force diversity:** We have a diverse team that reflects the demography of our area, including targets for representation from groups with protected characteristics.
- 2.3 **Progress:** NTCA currently employs 77 members of staff. The tables below compare the composition of the NTCA staff team with the wider North of Tyne community to identify how well we reflect everyone across our area. 2021 figures have been included for comparison.

Gender	NTCA 2021	NTCA 2022	North of Tyne average
Men	39.7%	33.8%	49.10%
Women	60.3%	66.2%	50.90%

Ethnicity	NTCA 2021	NTCA 2022	North of Tyne average
White	89.7%	89.6%	93.0%
Other ethnic backgrounds	10.3%	10.2%	7%

Disability	NTCA 2021	NTCA 2022	North of Tyne average
Disability	3.4%	1.3%	28.3%
No declared disability	96.6%	98.7%	71.3%

- 2.4 This data shows that NTCA broadly reflects the wider North of Tyne community. While there appears to be under-representation of people with a declared disability within the workforce we know these results do not present a full picture. Based on informal discussions with staff we are closer in representation to the area average. Staff may choose not to disclose a disability due to past discrimination or find that the reporting categories do not match their experiences. It is worth noting that levels of disability across the North of Tyne have increased by 4.3% in the last year.
- 2.5 NTCA ran two Mayor's Equalities Assemblies in Autumn 2022. Lived experience of inequality from over 70 residents was listened to and captured. Much positive feedback was received about the event which has also been showcased by the Local Government Association (LGA). NTCA has created an internal working group who are reviewing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within our own recruitment and induction processes, which was an action falling out of the Mayor's Equalities Assemblies. We continue to forge links with specialist external organisations who can help us to do this with the best possible outcomes in mind.
- 2.6 In line with this work, NTCA's Equalities and Diversity Policy has been reviewed and amended. The full policy is included in Appendix A and the new addition is in section 7, 'Definitions'.
- 2.7 In support of this objective, and in line with good practice for small and medium sized enterprises, NTCA also provides an annual report of its gender pay gap. The gender pay gap is a measure of disparity in pay between the average earnings of men and women in the same organisation. This is separate to the issue of equal pay which refers to differences in pay between men and women for work which is defined as equal. For the year 2022/3, the median hourly rate for women was £22.56 whilst the median hourly rate for men was £23.09 giving a median gender pay gap of 2.30%.
- 3.1 **Objective 2: Staff confidence:** To improve the confidence of NTCA staff in relation to equalities, ensuring staff feel included and we have collective zero tolerance to all forms of discrimination.
- 3.2 **Progress:** NTCA uses 'pulse' surveys to understand the experience and expectations of staff. Repeated at regular intervals these surveys provide a good quality dataset through which to track staff reflections on their ability to understand and apply equalities thinking and practice.
- 3.3 Our pulse survey data shows that most staff are fairly confident in applying equalities in their day-to-day work. The average score in response to this question has remained the same as the previous year at 4.5 out of 5.
- 3.4 In response to the question 'are you satisfied that bullying, harassment or any forms of discrimination are seen as unacceptable at work, and that concerns would always be acted on?' 4.4 out of 5 respondents felt confident this was the case. We are holding staff drop-in sessions to provide space for staff to raise any concerns about the issues covered in the pulse survey.
- 3.5 In response to the question 'are you satisfied that you and your work are seen as valuable and that you feel good about yourself at work' the average response score was 3.9 out of 5.
- 3.6 Throughout 2022, the NTCA Inclusive Economy Team has reviewed and relaunched the equality impact assessment process, alongside two training sessions from the EHRC, to support with staff confidence in this area. At the point of writing equality impact assessments are underway at both programme and project level for all areas. We are also looking at how to include EDI in our monitoring processes, for programmes in delivery. It should be noted that the equalities learning lunches and the new process for impact assessing did not launch until after the results of the latest staff survey, so we may see higher results next year.
- 4.1 **Objective 3: Employment levels amongst disadvantaged groups:** To increase the % of women, single parents, ethnic minorities, and disabled or Deaf residents in our jobs and skills programmes by 2% over 2 years.
- 4.2 **Progress:** To model our original projections for this objective, we used Adult Education Budget (AEB) data. The table below demonstrates our progress over this time period.

	2020-1 academic year number of enrolments and %age	2021-2 academic year number of enrolments and %age	2022-3 academic year* number of enrolments and %age * To date (Aug 22- Jan 23)	Overall change since 2021
Young people 19-24 years	2,958 (16%)	4,148 (13%)	2761 (15%)	-1%
Learning difference/disability	2,950 (16%)	6545 (45%)	3834 (21%)	+5%
Black and minority ethnic	7,705 (42%)	14,511 (45%)	9437 (68%)	+26%
Women	10,804 (60%)	18,810 (57%)	8,062 (58%)	-2%

- 4.3 NTCA progress against this target is largely positive. The number of learners with a declared learning difference or disability has increased by 5 percentage points since 2020-2021, and the number of residents from black and minoritised ethnic communities accessing the AEB has increased substantially (by 26 percentage points). This may be a reflection of the uplift in registrations onto ESOL provision, which appears to be in line with larger numbers of people in the region seeking asylum or refuge.
- 4.4 The percentage of women and young people accessing learning programmes through the AEB appears to have dropped slightly 2020-2021 but has increased again in the 22-23 academic year. This may have been linked with the impact of the pandemic. Having a full academic years' worth of data for comparison in 2024 will help to provide a more accurate picture.
- 4.5 Initiatives are underway this year to continue to work with residents with protected characteristics, and the Multiply Programme, which starts this year, will act a steppingstone onto AEB provision and will provide additional support to underserved groups.
- 5.1 **Objective 4: In-work Poverty:** To reduce the prevalence of in-work poverty within the North of Tyne by 5% by June 2025, with specific focus on women, workers from black and minoritised ethnic backgrounds and disabled or Deaf residents.
- 5.2 **Progress:** Using the Office of National Statistics' Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings data¹ we know that, as a baseline, 46,000 jobs in our area, or just over 12% of all jobs, earned below the Real Living Wage (RLW) in 2022. The RLW is independently calculated every year by the Living Wage Foundation to meet the cost of living and is higher than the National Living Wage².

January 2022 – December 2022		
Number of Jobs	Jobs paying below RLW	% Jobs below RLW
376,291	46,000	12.3%

- 5.3 The picture presented by the RLW data is complex. The number of jobs earning below the RLW in our region does appear to have fallen in the last year (the 2021 figure was 16%) but the data continue to show a different picture. The latest three-year averages show the North East of England had the highest poverty rate of all regions in 2018-21 at 26%³ and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/surveys/informationforbusinesses/businesssurveys/annualsurveyofhoursandearningsashe>

² <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/news/living-wage-foundation-responds-rise-governments-national-living-wage>

³ <https://www.jrf.org.uk/data/uk-poverty-rates-region>

estimates that that 1 in 5 are living in in-work poverty across the UK⁴. TUC also estimates that the majority of people living in poverty live in a working household,⁵ so it seems likely that addressing in-work poverty will continue to be an important issue in the North of Tyne area.

- 5.3 Against this challenging backdrop, and in the same time period, NTCA has focussed heavily on poverty interventions, both for those in and out of work. We have seen almost 90 employers' sign-up to our Good Work Pledge, recognising the importance of well-paid, secure work, as well as becoming the first Combined Authority to launch a Child Poverty Intervention Fund, which aims to raise awareness with employers about in-work poverty and in-work benefits. In-work poverty is also a focus in the North of Tyne's Employability Plan which has been signed off this year. This continued focus on in-work poverty will be crucial in the coming year.
- 6.1 **Objective 5: Co-production and Co-design:** 15% of all products and projects in NTCA to be co-designed or co-produced by June 2023.
- 6.2 **Progress:** In line with good practice NTCA uses the National Co-production Advisory Group's ladder of participation to understand the role community consultation and engagement can play in different projects and activities (see Appendix B).
- 6.3 Projects are co-produced or co-designed in a number of different ways, including through use of online platforms such as NextDoor and Common Place. The Wellbeing Framework and the Equalities Assembly are particularly good examples of co-production where residents were engaged with at various stages of the process in face-to-face planning and roundtable events.
- 6.4 Our progress towards this objective is largely positive. We know that the vast majority of our work is designed in partnership with key stakeholders. When asked about co-design and co-production at the start of 2023, 24 projects were listed by colleagues as having been co-designed (rung 2 on the ladder) or co-produced (rung 3). As we estimate that we are currently running 136 projects, this means that a minimum of 18% of our projects are co-designed or co-produced, with the figure likely being much higher than this. As a partnership organisation we continue to work in active collaboration with our local authorities, stakeholders and delivery partners, we are confident that our engagement levels are very high and anticipate increased codesign as a result.
- 6.5 In 2023/4 NTCA will aim to increase staff awareness, understanding and competency in relation to co-design and co-production and produce some centralised guidance on this. We'll also repeat and improve the annual survey to build a more detailed and accurate picture of NTCA's approach and impact.

B. Impact on NTCA Objectives

1. NTCA is committed to "supporting and developing vibrant communities, which provide opportunities, choice and inspire pride. NTCA's Inclusive Economy Policy Statement reinforces this by committing to developing an investment approach that links growth with inclusion. Our equality objectives are important tools with which to do this, recognising and understanding some of the root causes of inequality in the North of Tyne and working directly with residents to co-design and co-produce our responses.

C. Key Risks

1. NTCA now has an established framework against which to measure and understand the progress of our objectives. We will use this to review progress within the next year, actively inform any new programmes or projects we undertake and ensure this analysis is applied to our policy approach in 2023/24. This will include giving due consideration to other relevant groups which are not explicitly protected by the Equality Act 2010.

⁴ <https://www.jrf.org.uk/economic-insecurity/in-work-poverty>

⁵ <https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/only-good-well-paid-work-route-out-poverty>

D. Financial and Other Resources Implications

1. There are no financial implications of this report.

E. Legal Implications

1. The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.

F. Equalities Implications

1. The contents and recommendations of this report will directly deliver NTCA's obligations in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty (April 2011) which requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to achieve the objectives of the Equality Act 2010. Our Equality Objectives 2021-25 enable NTCA to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and those who do not, contributing to an inclusive, thriving North of Tyne.

G. Inclusive Economy and Wellbeing Implications

1. Our equality objectives will specifically support the following characteristics of a more inclusive economy:
 - Participation – Our objectives, which include specific commitments to co-design, co-production and the active participation of all groups across the North of Tyne, directly support a people-centred approach to local economic development, aiming to offer people with protected characteristics in particular a greater say over their future.
 - Equity – By better understanding the experiences, needs and barriers of people furthest from good jobs and opportunities, we will seek to ensure inequality declines, specifically in areas such as in-work poverty and financial exclusion.
 - Growth – a clearer understanding of how some groups with protected characteristics experience systemic barriers to economic opportunities will ensure good jobs and skills are targeted at people from poorer communities and places in the North of Tyne, including our rural and coastal communities.
2. Our equalities objectives also align directly with the wellbeing outcomes around tolerance and diversity (outcomes 9 and 10) which focus specifically on tolerance and inclusion.

H. Climate Change Implications

1. There are no climate change implications for this report.

I. Consultation and Engagement

1. We have worked with the Equality and Human Rights Commission on our approach to equality, diversity and inclusion.

J. Appendices

Appendix A NTCA Equalities and Diversity Policy
Appendix B Co-design and Co-production – Ladder of Participation

K. Background Papers

None

L. Contact Officers

Ruth Redfern – Director of Policy and Performance
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M. Glossary

Adult Education Budget	AEB
Equality and Human Rights Commission	EHRC
English for Speakers of Other Languages	ESOL
North of Tyne Combined Authority	NTCA
Real Living Wage	RLW



Equality and Diversity at North of Tyne Combined Authority

1. Policy purpose and scope / key principles

1.1 As an employer, commissioner, contractor and public body, the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA), is fully committed to complying with the Equality Act 2010 and to fulfilling its statutory duties towards its employees and residents with regards to equality and inclusion.

1.2 However, our ambition extends beyond this. We want North of Tyne to be a welcoming and truly inclusive region in which everyone is able to share in our prosperity, culture and community life regardless of their age, socio-economic background, disability, race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status or whether they are pregnant or on maternity leave.

1.3 For us to achieve our ambition, promote the wellbeing of our residents and develop a truly inclusive economy which works for all, we will need to tackle the longstanding and emerging inequalities in our region which prevent people from fulfilling their potential. By creating the conditions where people can realise their full potential, the economic growth of our region will be strengthened.

1.3 We know that some people face prejudice and discrimination and that this can be due to fear, a lack of understanding or because of hatred or intolerance. Prejudice and discrimination may manifest itself in the form of lack of respect and contempt, harassment, hate speech or actual violence and may be linked to racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia or hostility to people with a disability. Disabled people may also face barriers which mean that they do not have the same opportunities as non-disabled people.

1.4 We will lead by example in terms of how we promote and support equality and diversity amongst our staff as well as in the wider community. We will foster a culture for our staff where everyone is treated with respect, feels able to speak up and contribute and has their health and wellbeing supported. We will spread these values in the wider community through responsible procurement, working with the supply chain to ensure a commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion. As a small organisation which does not deliver services directly we recognise an important part of our role is to encourage and support good practice. We will do this by going further than our statutory duties under the 2010 Equality Act by seeking to implement the Act's socio-economic duty (Part 1 Section 1) so that we will assess whether our policies reduce or increase inequalities caused by socio-economic disadvantage. This will be incorporated into our Equality Impact Assessments.

2. Accountability

2.1 Oversight of the policy, its implementation and monitoring, rests with the Senior Management Team.

2.2 Equality affects and involves everyone and so all NTCA employees, and everyone who represents the NTCA or acts on our behalf, has a personal responsibility to treat everyone with respect, consideration and in a non-discriminatory way.

3. Legal and Policy Framework

The content of this policy is determined by the following:

- The 2010 Equality Act. As a public sector body we are also fully committed to complying with the specific requirements of the Act's Public Sector Equality Duty
- We are also committed to implementing the Socio-Economic Duty under Section 1 of the 2010 Equality Act
- Codes of practice published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission
- The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

4. Our Commitments

To support our commitment to equality and diversity and achieve our purpose as set out at the start of this policy document, we will:

- meet all our legal equality duties as laid out in the 2010 Equality Act and follow codes of practice published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission;
- undertake and implement the actions from Equality Impact Assessments on our significant decisions, policies, plans, practices and procedures;
- take action to address social, economic and geographical disadvantage;
- regularly monitor, assess and consult on the impact of our policies and contracts to ensure that they are fair, anti-discriminatory;
- engage people from all communities to help shape our work and ensure people with protected characteristics are listened to and involved in decisions about our projects and programmes;
- proactively embed equality and diversity considerations in everything we do and encourage others to do the same;
- require organisations with whom we are in partnership, commissioning or contracting to follow our approach to equality;
- build understanding amongst our staff, partners and residents of the needs of different protected groups across North of Tyne;
- strive to make our workforce representative of North of Tyne's diverse population and the residents it serves by ensuring equal access to jobs, training and career progression for all groups in the community;
- treat all employees fairly and provide them with support on how equality affects their work and how they can help ensure we take everyone's needs into account.

5. Equality and Diversity in our Employment Practices

5.1 This section applies to all NTCA employees and people seeking work with us

5.2 We will treat our employees and people who apply for our jobs fairly. We want a workforce which reflects the diversity of our region and for NTCA to be a place where people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and enjoy working. We will therefore promote equality of opportunity through all our employment policies and practices, including recruitment, terms and conditions, learning and development, promotion and when ending employment.

To enable this, we will:

- provide equality of opportunity to all applicants and prospective applicants through fair recruitment and selection procedures. We recognise that people with particular protected characteristics, including disabled people or from Black Asian minority ethnic communities, often experience discrimination in employment and so we will take positive and proportionate action to recruit, retain and provide career opportunities to employees from such groups;
- make reasonable adjustments to enable the employment and retention of disabled and deaf employees;
- provide all employees with the professional development opportunities needed to attain their full potential to the benefit of themselves and the Combined Authority;

- ensure that all employees are considered for promotion on the basis of their merits, abilities and skills, and are given equal opportunities to progress within the Authority;
- create a good work / life balance through flexible working arrangements so as to maximise equal opportunities for all employees;
- ensure we have a gender-sensitive approach to health and safety, recognising not all employees have the same needs or requirements;
- develop an anti-discriminatory and supportive culture in which employees are aware of their rights and know how to raise issues if they feel discrimination has taken place;
- respond to any allegations of discrimination, victimisation or harassment through appropriate internal processes, including our disciplinary procedures.

6. Equality and Diversity in Procurement and Commissioning

We will ensure that our procurement and commissioning practices fulfil our equality duties and meet our ambitions for equality and diversity.

7. Definitions

7.1 NTCA is mindful of the need to reflect the modernisation of descriptions, terms and references, our policies seek to provide an inclusive environment that promotes equality and values diversity. NTCA knows that some of our communities continue to face many barriers. These include but are not limited to discrimination, threatening behaviours, and abuse. We remain vigilant in recognising and opposing these, in our actions and our language. We strive to ensure our language does not offend or dehumanise these communities. Therefore, will adopt new definitions of discrimination including but not exclusively:

7.2 NTCA recognises that homophobia, or heterosexism, is “the fear or dislike of someone, based on prejudice or negative attitudes, beliefs or views about lesbian, gay or bi people”. We, therefore, will be alert to homophobic bullying which may be targeted at people who are, or who are perceived to be, lesbian, gay or bi., and the assumption that people should be, or are, heterosexual”. The term LGBTQI+ is used as it is the most commonly understood acronym; this is not intended to conflate gender identity with sexual orientation or to disrespect other sexual orientations.

7.3 NTCA recognises an individual’s gender identity and gender expression in a very practical and empathetic way. We understand that “Gender Expression is the external manifestation of a person’s gender identity”. We recognise that gender can be expressed through mannerisms, physical characteristics, social interactions and speech patterns, etc. We understand that “Trans is an umbrella term which can be used without offence for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from that which is usually associated with the sex assigned to them at birth.” This term can include diverse identifications such as: transsexual, transgender, non-binary, crossdresser, androgynous, agender, genderqueer, gender variant or differently gendered. We understand that “Gender non-binary is the term used to describe any gender identity which does not fit within the traditional binary of male and female”.

7.4 NTCA recognises that racism is “when a person is treated worse, excluded, disadvantaged, harassed, bullied, humiliated or degraded because of their race or ethnicity. Furthermore, we recognise that at an organisational level, it can also be the collective failure to provide an inclusive and professional working environment to people because of their race or ethnicity”.

7.5 NTCA recognises the IHRA International Definition of Antisemitism, also known as the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism, which is: “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”, To guide NTCA, the examples here <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism> may serve as illustrations.

7.6 NTCA recognises that the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims, after an inquiry into a working definition of Islamophobia, recommended the following definition: “Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness”.

7.7 NTCA recognises that we should avoid medical labels and descriptions that diminish people's individuality (i.e., 'the disabled'). We will endeavour to ensure our language, actions, and behaviours do not reinforce stereotypes that limit Deaf and disabled people's abilities to define themselves, their agency and identity. We recognise that many Deaf people whose first language is BSL (British Sign Language) consider themselves part of the Deaf community.

7.8 NTCA recognises that misogyny is “hatred of, contempt for, or prejudice against women and it is a form of sexism that is used to keep women at a lower social and professional status than men”. We accept the white ribbon philosophy (through our membership) of challenging long established, and harmful, attitudes, systems and behaviours around masculinity that perpetuate gender inequality and effectively promote men’s violence against women.

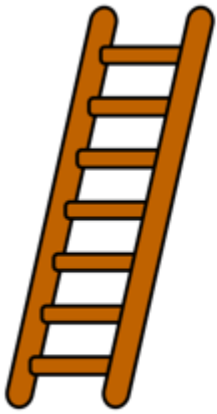
7.9 NTCA will continue to seek feedback on the implementation of modernisation of descriptions, terms and references.

8. Review

8.1 We will review this policy on a regular basis every two years to ensure that it meets the needs of the Combined Authority and ensure compliance with relevant legislation.

8.2 The policy can be reviewed earlier if any new guidance or legislation is produced before the next scheduled review date.

8.3 Any review of this policy will be carried out in consultation with the recognised trade unions and other relevant parties.



Ladder of participation

People accessing this service were:

3. Able to design/deliver this service as an equal partner

2. Asked for ideas and opinions to inform our decisions

1. Not involved in service design or delivery

National Co-production Advisory Group, Co-production: It's a long-term relationship!

<https://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/assets/COPRODUCTION/Ladder-of-coproduction.pdf>



**Subject: North East Local Enterprise Partnership –
Funding Decisions Update**
Report of: North East LEP Chief Executive
Portfolio: All

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to update the Cabinet on the work and decisions of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP). Since the North of Tyne Combined Authority Cabinet meeting held on 31 January 2023 there have been a number of project funding decisions related to the investment programmes managed by the North East LEP, for which NTCA is the accountable body. This report provides summary information about the Local Growth Fund (LGF), Getting Building Fund (GBF), Enterprise Zone (EZ), Project Development Accelerator Fund (PDAF) and North East Investment Fund (NEIF) programmes.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the report which provides information on the work and funding decisions of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP) over the last four months.

A. Context

1. Background Information

- 1.1 The report provides an update on the North East LEP project funding decisions made since the 31 January 2023. The North East LEP manages four funding programmes; the Local Growth Funding (LGF), the Getting Building Fund (GBF), the North East Investment Fund (NEIF) and the Enterprise Zone (EZ) programme. On the 28 May 2021, the North East LEP Board agreed to the establishment of a Project Development Accelerator Fund (sourced from NEIF, reallocated from GBF programme match underspend and retained EZ surplus) to support the development of strategic regional projects. This fund has assisted 19 projects to date.
- 1.2 Project funding decisions are made in line with the North East LEP Constitution and Scheme of Delegation which sets out how decisions can be made through the North East LEP Board, the Investment Board or through the delegated decision process.
- 1.3 The North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA), as the North East LEP accountable body, is the legal entity which issues the grant and loan agreements to project applicants and as such must satisfy itself of the legal and financial probity of any decisions it implements on behalf of the North East LEP. This means that the North East LEP project funding decisions also need to be authorised through NTCA decision-making for legal and financial probity reasons, rather than endorsing the actual in principle decision of the North East LEP.

2. Funding Decisions

- 2.1 Approval was confirmed to enable:
 - The withdraw of the GBF programme grant award of £965,585 to Arbucc (Drum) Limited for the scheme at Panther Court, Co. Durham and reallocation of this amount to Durham County

Council to support the NETPark Phase 3 development, bringing the total grant award for this project from the North East LEP to £3,930,585.

- 2.2 A copy of the funding decisions report taken to the 23 March North East Board is attached for information, as set out in confidential appendix A. Other confidential project funding decisions made and implemented up to the end of April, including delegated decisions, are set out in the confidential appendix B.

B. Potential Impact on Objectives

The decisions support the vision and objectives of the North East LEP Strategic Economic Plan 2014-2024, and the North East Recovery and Renewal Deal submitted to Government in September 2020.

C. Key Risks

The North East LEP is managing financial, regulatory and reputational risks at both project level and programme level. Individual project level risks are assessed prior to funding approval as part of the project appraisal process and in accordance with the North East LEP Assurance Framework.

NTCA's finance and legal officers consider all related grant and loan funding agreements including subsidy control matters to ensure legal and financial probity prior decisions being taken.

D. Financial and Other Resources Implications

The Section 73 Officer is consulted on all funding decisions going through the NTCA decision-making process to ensure financial probity and whether the budget provision is available.

E. Legal Implications

The comments of the Monitoring Officer have been included within this report. The NTCA Monitoring Officer is consulted on all funding decisions going through the NTCA decision-making process to ensure legal probity.

F. Equalities Implications

All North East LEP funded projects are required to be delivered in accordance with the objectives set out under s149 of the Equalities Act 2010.

G. Inclusive Economy Implications

The North East LEP follows the policies set out in its North East Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) that promote sustainable economic growth across the region. The core objective of the North East SEP is to support the creation of 100,000 'more and better' jobs in the region by 2024.

Projects consider the impact on inclusive growth in the North East.

H. Climate Change Implications

A number of projects / mini programmes supported by the North East LEP funding programmes are specifically supporting efforts to achieve Net Zero goals and to mitigate against climate change.

I. Consultation and Engagement

Proposals have been developed through the North East LEP Board and Investment Board processes.

J. Appendices

Appendix A: Copy of the North East LEP Board funding papers – 23 March 2023

Appendix B: Copy of confidential funding decisions made

The appendices are not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

K. Background Papers

None

L. Contact Officers

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Chief Executive, North East Local Enterprise Partnership

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M. Glossary

EZ	Enterprise Zone
GBF	Getting Building Fund
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
LGF	Local Growth Fund
NEIF	North East Investment Fund
PDAF	Project Development Accelerator Fund

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