

## Cabinet

26 November 2024

### Decision Notice

In accordance with the requirements of the Authority’s Constitution, notice is given that Cabinet made the decisions set out below at its meeting held on 26 November 2024.

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

This decision notice was published on 27 November 2024. The call-in period will expire at 5pm on Wednesday 4 December 2024.

Further information regarding the Cabinet and its decisions can be obtained from the Authority’s website [www.northeast-ca.gov.uk](http://www.northeast-ca.gov.uk) or from Paul Wheeler email: [paul.wheeler@northeast-ca.gov.uk](mailto:paul.wheeler@northeast-ca.gov.uk)

Reference and Title	Decision
C44/11/24 North East Environmental Stewardship, Coast, and Rural Growth Investment Plan	<p><b>Resolved</b> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The draft North East Environmental Stewardship, Coast, and Rural Growth Investment Plan, set out in Appendix 1, ahead of formal launch be Approved.</li> <li>2. An indicative budget allocation of £15.75m from the Investment Fund for the period 2025-29 to facilitate the delivery of the Investment Plan, focussed on the following two priority areas:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. £7.25m for the Environment and Nature investment priority</li> <li>b. £8.5m for the Rural and Coastal Growth investment priority, be Agreed.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Subsequent approvals of financial commitments against point 3 above be subject to completion of full business cases, progressed in accordance with the Single Assurance Framework, be Agreed.</li> <li>4. A £1.25m Environment, Coast &amp; Rural Enabling Fund, to be managed in accordance with the North East Combined Authority’s Scheme of Delegation, and limited to officer resource and expert advisory support in pursuance of the following:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. £300k for resources to oversee the implementation of the Investment Plan and to provide secretariat support for a Rural &amp; Coastal Taskforce;</li> <li>b. £300k for a Climate Resilience pilot;</li> <li>c. £650k to support the development of investible propositions in accordance with the Environmental Stewardship, Coastal and Rural Growth Investment Plan strategic priorities,</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>be Agreed.</p> <p>5. The North East Combined Authority will work with the UK Government and others to seek further investment to support its ambitions around both Environment and Nature and Rural &amp; Coastal Growth. The ambition will use the indicative funding highlighted in the report to leverage an overall package of at least £25m of activity over the next 5 years, be Noted</p>
<p>C45/11/24 North East Investment Zone – Wave 1 Projects</p>	<p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide in-principle approval of the NETPark Phase 3a and Energy Central Institute projects; and</li> <li>2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor and Finance and Investment Board, to approve funding of up to £11,255,710 for NETPark Phase 3a, and £5,499,951 for the Energy Central Institute in accordance with the Single Assurance Framework.</li> </ol>
<p>C46/11/24 Bus Reform – Procurement of Specialist Support</p>	<p><b>Resolved to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Authorise commencement of procurement arrangements associated with development of the region’s Bus Franchising Scheme Assessment.</li> <li>2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, Director of Finance and Investment and Monitoring Officer, to carry out procurement exercises and award contracts for all specialist support associated with development of the region’s Bus Franchising Scheme Assessment.</li> </ol>
<p>C47/11/24 Devolved Adult Skills Fund &amp; Skills Bootcamps – update on progress</p>	<p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted the progress made on the mobilisation of the Devolved Adult Skills Fund (ASF) from 1 August 2024 and the North East CA’s Skills Bootcamp programme from 1 June 2024.</li> <li>2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Portfolio Holder for Education, Inclusion and Skills to approve any subsequent arrangements including procurement activity and funding allocations related to the delivery of Adult Skills programmes as set out in section 7 of the report.</li> </ol>
<p>C48/11/24 Department for Work and Pensions: Connect to Work Programme</p>	<p><b>Resolved to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Authorise the Director of Finance to accept the grant offer from DWP with respect to Connect to Work on behalf of the Authority, subject to the terms and conditions set out by DWP.</li> <li>2. Authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance and relevant Cabinet Member, to approve the commissioning approach set out in 3.2 of the report, including the Delivery Plan and Grant Cost Register.</li> <li>3. Authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Finance and Investment Board, to approve project applications and award contracts brought forward through the approved Delivery Plan. Project</li> </ol>

	<p>approvals should be made with reference to fit with the North East CA Connect to Work Delivery Plan, align with North East CA Assurance principles, and demonstrate value for money and deliverability</p>
<p>C49/11/24 Early Delivery Priorities for Culture, Creative, Tourism and Sport in the North East</p>	<p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That work had commenced on the development of a 10-year regional events strategy commencing from 2026 and that Cabinet will receive a further report setting out longer term recommendations and funding requirements in Spring 2025, be Noted.</li> <li>2. To allocate £2m to support early priority regional events in advance of the long-term events strategy and to delegate responsibility to the Chief Executive to make investment decisions in relation to the funding allocated, in line with intent and objectives set out in the report, and in accordance with the North East CA Single Assurance Framework.</li> <li>3. Request that proposals be developed, in collaboration with regional partners, setting out how the region could build on the existing Destination Development Partnership pilot (Destination North East England). Proposals would set out the regional capacity needed to enable delivery of its ambition for the visitor economy, and how this could support collaboration and add value to existing activity and structures.</li> <li>4. That the Great North Run Company had been commissioned to work collaboratively with regional partners to inform the strategic case for the North East to be designated by Government as the UKs first Region of Sport, findings and next steps would be reported to Cabinet in early 2025, be Noted.</li> <li>5. Allocate funding to invest in improving community participation in upcoming major regional sporting events, providing a test case for the Region of Sport concept, and to delegate responsibility to the Chief Executive in accordance with the Single Assurance Framework to make investment decisions in relation to the funding allocated:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. £0.5m to support delivery of the inaugural match at the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 in Sunderland, including a comprehensive programme of community engagement and legacy benefit, testing the principles of the Region of Sport.</li> <li>b. By way of the previous funding commitment of the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) to support a 'festival of football' in the lead up to Euros 2028. This would provide the launchpad for a long-lasting legacy and contribute greatly to the core aims of increasing community-level engagement and promoting health and wellbeing, testing the principles of the Region of Sport.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. The development of the Local Growth Plan and the importance of the Creative Industries within this as a significant economic opportunity, be Noted</li> <li>7. Plans to begin engagement with Government Departments and cultural and creative arm's length bodies in developing the North East Culture, Creative, Tourism, Sport and Heritage (CCTSH) Blueprint and to receive a future report setting out next steps, be Noted</li> </ol>

<p>C50/11/24 2025-26 Budget and Corporate Plan and Medium-Term Financial Plan</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The initial draft Corporate Plan as set out in paragraph 1.4 for consultation, be Agreed.</li> <li>2. The initial draft North East CA Corporate Budget for 2025-26 as set out in section 2 for consultation, be Agreed.</li> <li>3. The overarching delivery budgets as set out in Section 3 for consultation, be Agreed.</li> <li>4. The draft Transport Levies as set out in Section 6 for consultation, be Agreed</li> <li>5. The reserves position as set out in Section 9 be kept under review while consideration of additional information becomes available about the financial risks facing the authority and the proposed arrangements for managing those risks, be Noted</li> </ol>
<p>C51/11/24 2024/25 Budget Monitoring Position 30 September 2024</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The updated budget position for 2024/25, be Noted.</li> <li>2. The Treasury Management position on 30 September 2024, be Noted</li> <li>3. The current value of reserves, based on the draft 2023/24 final accounts for both North of Tyne Combined Authority and former North East Combined Authority, be Noted.</li> </ol>
<p>C52/11/24 Governance Update on Cabinet Portfolio, Advisory Boards and Appointments</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The creation of a new Cabinet portfolio relating to Public Sector Reform and that Cllr Karen Kilgour is the portfolio holder, be Agreed</li> <li>2. The creation of a Public Sector Reform Advisory Board with the areas of work set out at Appendix 2, and delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the portfolio holder, the appointment of individual members to that Board, be Agreed.</li> <li>3. The terms of reference and areas of work for the Business and Economy Board, as set out in Appendix 3, and delegate the appointment of individual members to this Board to the Chief Executive; in consultation with the Mayor and the Chair of the Business and Economy Board (once appointed), be Agreed and</li> <li>4. To approve the appointment of Dale Owens as a Non-Executive Director to the Nexus Executive Board.</li> <li>5. The designation of the Authority's statutory Chief Finance Officer and Scrutiny Officer as set out in section 4, be Agreed.</li> </ol>