

Cabinet

18 March 2025

Decision Notice

In accordance with the requirements of the Authority’s Constitution, notice is given that Cabinet, at its meeting held on 18 March 2025, made the decisions set out below.

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

This decision notice was published on 19 March 2025. The call-in period will expire at 5pm on Wednesday 26 March 2025.

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

Reference and Title	Decision
<p>C75/03/25 The Mayor’s Local Transport Plan and Transport Investments</p>	<p>The Mayor and Cabinet Resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the changes to the Local Transport Plan and LTP Delivery Plan that had been made arising from consultation responses as set out in Appendix D. 2. Publish: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The finalised Local Transport Plan shown in Appendix A and summarised in Appendix B b. The LTP Delivery Plan shown in Appendix C c. The LTP consultation overview and findings report shown in Appendix D d. The Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) shown in Appendix E e. The Transport Asset Management Plan shown in Appendix F 3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Make minor changes to the LTP and its associated documents to reflect changes approved by Cabinet b. Make any textual or grammatical corrections to the LTP and its associated documents. c. Progress associated procurement activity and award contracts as set out in recommendations 4 and 5. 4. Accept the following transport grants, noting the associated conditions set out by the Department for Transport (DfT): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. £116.852 million in capital funding through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for financial year 2025/26 as outlined in section 1.2.5.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. £23 million in capital funding bringing Durham into the CRSTS programme in 2025/26 and 2026/27 as outlined in section 1.2.10. c. £9.85 million in resource (revenue) funding for capacity and capability building in support of CRSTS 1 delivery, and to build longer term local transport planning and delivery capacity as we look towards CRSTS 2 as outlined in section 1.2.12. d. £21.7 million of capital for increased highways maintenance in 2025/26 as outlined in section 1.4. e. £15.8 million in capital funding from the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund as outlined in section 1.5. <p>5. Approve the investments set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. £21.7 million of increased highways maintenance funding for 2025/26 to be allocated to constituent highways authorities as outlined in section 1.4. b. £0.45 million of CRSTS capacity funding for the procurement of a study which identifies infrastructure assets that are critical to the proper functioning of the regional transport network as outlined in section 1.3.7. c. £1.1 million of CRSTS capacity funding to procure a contract for the independent appraisal of transport schemes inclusive of those schemes in the CRSTS programme outlined in section 1.2.15. d. £15.8 million in LEVI Funding for awarding supplier contracts for all phases of delivery as outlined in section 1.5. e. £106.498 million of CRSTS capital funding inclusive of overprogramming, for the Active Travel Programme Business Case, with onward approvals of schemes to be managed through Finance and Investment Board, in line with the Single Assurance Framework as outlined in section 1.2.8. f. £8.180 million of CRSTS capital funding supplementing the £4.58 million of Transforming Cities Funding approved in July 2024 for the North Shields Ferry Landing scheme, delegating authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor and Portfolio holder for Transport, subject to the conclusion of appraisal and due diligence in line with the Single Assurance Framework, to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Nexus to the value of £12.760 million.
<p>C76/03/25 Creating Real Opportunity: The Interim North East Local Growth Plan</p>	<p>Resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the Interim North East Local Growth Plan, as a basis for consultation within the region; 2. Delegate approval to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor and appropriate Cabinet Members, to put in place appropriate measures to support the development and implementation of the priorities identified within the Interim Local Growth Plan, including in discussions with national government departments and agencies.

	<p>3. Agree to receive further updates on the Local Growth Plan, including a final version of the plan.</p>
<p>C77/03/25 North East Combined Authority Excellence in Education Programme</p>	<p>Resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subject to full business case appraisal and in line with the Single Assurance Framework, approve an indicative funding allocation of £5,000,000 from the Investment Fund for a three-year North East CA Excellence in Education Programme, with authority delegated to the Chief Executive for implementation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Finance and Investment Board. 2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to commence procurement activity and award contacts through the Children and Young People's Flexible Procurement Framework.
<p>C78/03/25 Unlocking Finance for North East Businesses to start and to grow</p>	<p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The approach to unlocking finance for North East businesses to start and grow, as set out in the report, and for £70 million of North East CA Investment Fund to be invested into the creation of these new strategic investment funds, which are collectively expected to unlock over £350 million of investment in regional businesses and 2,300 jobs over 15 years. 2. That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor and relevant portfolio holders, is authorised to undertake the next steps and take decisions relating to implementation of the proposals, including all necessary procurement decisions, in line with the parameters approved by North East CA Finance and Investment Board, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finalisation of the investment strategy and funding arrangements for the fund(s); • award of £70 million of funding, in the required proportion of grant and loan, to The North East Fund Limited, the regionally-owned holding company responsible for these funds. 3. To receive a future report on the overall status of financial arrangements now under the control of the North East CA, including legacy arrangements, and proposals on how they may be streamlined in terms of their operation, including any required future changes to the governance structures of the North East Fund Ltd to facilitate the approach set out.
<p>C79/03/25 Delivering our Ambition for the Regional Visitor Economy</p>	<p>Resolved to:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the content of the report and endorse the proposals as the basis for a structured engagement programme with regional and wider industry stakeholders. 2. Agree to the provision of time limited financial support of £138,000 to deliver these proposals from the North East CA Investment Fund, matching the funding already committed by DCMS. 3. Receive a further report setting out the outcome of engagement and proposals for new regional capacity to deliver the region's ambition to grow the visitor economy, including financial and operational implications for the North East CA and partners.
<p>C80/03/25 The North East CA Strategic Risk Review (6 monthly update)</p>	<p>Resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review, comment upon and agree the current strategic risks, scoring and proposed management actions at Appendix A. 2. Consider any potential new and emerging risks for inclusion within the strategic risk register.
<p>C81/03/25 Programme Delivery Update</p>	<p>Resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Note the updated forecast programme delivery plan position for 2024/25. b. Note the corporate overheads position for 2024/25.
<p>C82/03/25 North East CA Adult Skills</p>	<p>Resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the progress that has been made on the delivery of the Devolved Adult Skills Fund (ASF) from 1 August 2024 and the North East CA's Skills Bootcamp programme from 1 June 2024. 2. Approve the proposal set out in paragraph 4.2 of this report that current Grant Funding agreements and Contract for Service in place for ASF funding in AY 2024-25 be extended for one year and providers receive an allocation for AY 2025-26 with a 2.8% reduction applied to core ASF delivery. This would result in 20 Grant Funding Agreements with an overall value of £48,041,216, and 25 Contracts for Service with an overall value of £14,268,173. 3. Approve the proposal set out in paragraph 7.1 of this report that current Contracts for Service in place with providers for the delivery of Skills Bootcamps for FY 2024-25 be extended for a further financial year FY 2025-26. Extensions to the current Contracts for Service will utilise £16,673,259 of the £27,385,121 allocation. 4. Approve the proposal set out in paragraph 7.3 of this report to procure the remaining £9,350,498 of the FY 2025-26 Skills Bootcamp allocation by holding a mini competition for suppliers on the Adult Skills Procurement Framework in line with agreement made at November Cabinet.

<p>C85/03/25 Town Centre and High Street Transformation</p>	<p>Resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approve in principle the award of up to £18,204,912 of funding from the North East CA's Early Capital Fund and Investment Fund to South Tyneside Council to contribute toward the costs of developing a new 14,000 sqm college campus in South Shields town centre.2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor, relevant Portfolio Holders and the Finance and Investment Board to approve the final business case for the new South Tyneside College Campus and to take all steps necessary to implement the final business case in accordance with the Single Assurance Framework.3. Agree to receive an update from the Chief Executive following approval of the business case.
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