

A meeting of the: **Cabinet**

will be held on: **Tuesday 10 June 2025**

at: **2.00pm**

in: **The Story, Mount Oswald, South Road, Durham, DH1 3TQ**

The meeting will be livestreamed and available to view on the Authority's YouTube channel via (www.youtube.com/@NorthEast_CA/streams).

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

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5. Appointments to Cabinet, Committees and other bodies To consider appointments to Cabinet, Committees and other bodies and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.	1 - 12

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Title: Appointments to Cabinet, Committees and other bodies
Report of: John Softly, Monitoring Officer

Report Summary

This report sets out details of appointments to Cabinet (including the allocation of portfolios), the Authority's committees and other bodies. It also sets out the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel following their review of the allowances payable to the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee and the Independent Person appointed for the purposes of the standards regime.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. note the appointment by the constituent councils of the members and substitute members set out in Appendix 1;
2. agree the allocation of Cabinet portfolios set out in Appendix 2 and agree that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and Mayor, to finalise the terms of reference and membership of each Portfolio Advisory Board;
3. agree to invite as observers the Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (and authorise the Chief Executive to finalise these arrangements);
4. agree the schedule of meetings for the municipal year 2025/26 set out in Appendix 3;
5. agree the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee set out in Appendix 4;
6. agree the appointment of Councillor Colin Ferguson as the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
7. agree the membership of the Audit and Standards Committee set out in Appendix 5;
8. agree the appointment of members and substitute members to Transport for the North's Board, Partnership Board, Rail North Committee, Scrutiny Committee and General Purposes Committee set out in section 5 of this report, and authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor and relevant portfolio holder, to make in-year changes to these appointments; and
9. agree the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of the allowances payable to the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee and the Independent Person appointed for the purposes of the standards regime as set out in section 6 of this report.

A. Context

1. Cabinet appointments

- 1.1 The constituent councils have appointed the Cabinet members (and substitute Cabinet members) as set out in Appendix 1. Appendix 1 also includes the non-voting Cabinet members (and substitute members) previously appointed by Cabinet to represent (i) the business sector and (ii) the community and voluntary sector.

2. Cabinet Portfolios and schedule of meetings of Cabinet and other Committees

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Cabinet portfolios be realigned as far as possible with the five missions of the North East Combined Authority. These revised portfolio arrangements also reflect the need for the Finance and Investment Board to continue to play its key role as part of the Single Assurance Framework, and the need to ensure sufficient advisory capacity on transport, given the volume of CA transport business.

- 2.2 Therefore the proposed new Cabinet Portfolios are:

- Finance and Investment
- Transport
- Home of Real Opportunity
- A North East we are Proud to Call Home
- Home to a Growing and Vibrant Economy
- Home to the Green Energy Revolution
- A Welcoming Home to Global Trade

- 2.3 Appendix 2 sets out the proposed allocation of these Cabinet portfolios and the remit of each portfolio. Each portfolio will be supported by a Portfolio Advisory Board, chaired by the portfolio holder, in line with previous arrangements. Furthermore, in order to increase collaboration and involvement of the private sector in policy and delivery across the breadth of the Combined Authority's work, it is proposed that each Portfolio Advisory Board should include membership from the North East Business and Economy Board.
- 2.4 It is proposed that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder and the Mayor, be delegated authority to finalise the detailed terms of reference and membership of the Portfolio advisory boards.
- 2.5 It is also intended to invite to Cabinet meetings, as observers, the Police and Crime Commissioners for Durham and Northumbria due to the contribution that the Police and Crime Commissioners make to the missions of the Combined Authority. Observers are not members of the Cabinet but may speak at Cabinet at the Chair's invitation.
- 2.6 Appendix 3 sets out the proposed schedule of meetings of Cabinet and other committees for the forthcoming year, which may be updated during the year as required.

3. Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 3.1 In accordance with its Constitution, Cabinet is required to appoint an Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) comprising two members from each constituent authority. The composition of the OSC must reflect the political balance of elected councillors across the region as a whole. Taking account of recent local election results, the distribution of seats is as follows:

Durham	2 Reform
Gateshead	1 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat
Newcastle	1 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat
North Tyneside	2 Labour
Northumberland	1 Conservative, 1 Reform
South Tyneside	1 Labour, 1 Green
Sunderland	2 Labour

Substitute members must be appointed on the same basis.

- 3.2 The proposed membership of the OSC is set out at Appendix 4. The Chair of the OSC must be an 'appropriate person', which means an elected member from a political party other than that of the Mayor. The Constitution states that Cabinet shall appoint the Chair of the OSC at its Annual Meeting and a recommendation is included in this report.

4. Audit and Standards Committee

- 4.1 Cabinet is also required to appoint an Audit and Standards Committee (ASC), comprising two members from each constituent authority and one independent co-opted member who chairs the committee. The committee is currently chaired by Dave Willis OBE, who was appointed in June 2024 as Chair for an initial term of 2 years (with an option to extend the term for two further years). The appointment of elected members to the Committee must again reflect the political balance of elected councillors across the region as a whole (as set out at paragraph 3.1 above). The proposed membership of the ASC is set out at Appendix 5.

5. Transport for the North

- 5.1 As a constituent authority of Transport for the North (TfN), the North East CA is entitled to appoint one member (and one substitute member) to TfN's Board and Partnership Board. The person appointed to this role must be the Mayor or the Cabinet member responsible for transport. The substitute member can be any other of the Cabinet Members appointed by the constituent councils. The following appointments are proposed:

Board and Partnership Board Member	Substitute Member
Mayor Kim McGuinness	Councillor Martin Gannon

It is also proposed that the following appointments be made:

Rail North Committee Member	Substitute Member
Mayor Kim McGuinness	Councillor Martin Gannon

General Purposes Committee Member	Substitute Member
Councillor Martin Gannon	Mayor Kim McGuinness

Scrutiny Committee Member	Substitute Member
Councillor Colin Ferguson	Councillor Tracey Dixon

Business Representation	Substitute Member
John McCabe	Emily Cox

Executive Board Member	Substitute Member
Philip Meikle	Rachelle Forsyth-Ward

6. Independent Remuneration Panel review of allowances

- 6.1 At its meeting on 7 May 2024, Cabinet agreed that the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) would carry out a review after 12 months into the allowances payable to the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee and the Independent Person appointed for the purposes of the standards regime.
- 6.2 The IRP's report is attached at Appendix 6. The IRP recommends that these allowances should remain the same as before, i.e.
- an allowance of £500 (plus expenses) for each committee meeting attended be paid to the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee; and
 - an allowance of £1,000 per annum be paid to the Independent Person

But that these allowances be subject to annual increases linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

B Impact on North East Combined Authority Objectives

1. 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

1. 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

1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

E Legal implications

1. The Monitoring Officer is the author of this report and the proposals reflect the requirements of the North East CA's Constitution.

F Consultation and engagement

1. The constituent authorities have nominated their appointments to the committees and Cabinet members have been consulted on the proposals in this report.

G Appendices

Appendix 1	Members and substitute Cabinet Members
Appendix 2	Cabinet portfolios
Appendix 3	Schedule of meetings for 2024/25
Appendix 4	Membership of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Appendix 5	Membership of Audit and Standards Committee
Appendix 6	Independent Remuneration Panel 2025 report

H Background papers

None

I Contact officer(s)

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Cabinet Members and Substitute Cabinet Members

Authority	Cabinet Member	Substitute Members
Durham	Councillor Andrew Husband	Councillor Darren Grimes Councillor Lyndsey Fox
Gateshead	Councillor Martin Gannon	Councillor John Adams Councillor Gary Haley
Newcastle	Councillor Karen Kilgour	Councillor Alexander Hay Councillor Dan Greenhough
North Tyneside	Mayor Karen Clark	Councillor Carl Johnson Councillor Janet Hunter
Northumberland	Councillor Glen Sanderson	Councillor Nick Oliver Councillor Richard Wearmouth
South Tyneside	Councillor Tracey Dixon	Councillor Jane Carter Councillor Margaret Meling
Sunderland	Councillor Michael Mordey	Councillor Kelly Chequer Councillor Kevin Johnston
Business Board Member	John McCabe	Emily Cox
Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) Member	Martin Brookes	Kate Burrows

Cabinet Portfolios

Portfolio holder	Portfolio
Councillor Michael Mordey	Finance and Investment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment proposals under the Single Assurance Framework Assurance on value for money and due diligence Oversight of performance and management of strategic risk
Councillor Martin Gannon	Transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver on the Local Transport Plan
Councillor Tracey Dixon	Home of Real Opportunity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Poverty Reduction Skills Public Service Reform Inclusion, Health, Prevention Access to cultural and creative experiences Employment, employability, and New Deal Deliver on High Streets Commission
Councillor Andrew Husband	A North East we are Proud to Call Home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Policy and Delivery Social Housing Rural Growth Fund
Councillor Karen Kilgour	Home to a Growing and Vibrant Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the Local Growth Plan Invest in the foundational economy Support culture and creative industries Innovation / R&D
Mayor Karen Clark	Home to the Green Energy Revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy industry (incl. skills) Net zero (incl. Retrofit and carbon marketplace) Environment and Coast
Councillor Glen Sanderson	A Welcoming Home to Global Trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inward investment and international relations/export/trade Access to finance / investment funds

**North East Mayoral Combined Authority
Programme of Committee Meetings 2025/2026**

Committees	Day/Time	2025								2026					
		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Cabinet	Tues 2pm		10^[1]	22		23		25			3 & 17^[2]	17			9
	Host Authority		Durham County Council	Gateshead Council		Newcastle City Council		North Tyneside Council			3rd Feb Northumberland County Council 17 Feb Sunderland City Council Held provisionally for Budget	South Tyneside Council			Sunderland City Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Tues 10am		17^[3]	15		2	21		9	13	10	31			
	Host Authority			Newcastle		Durham	Gateshead		tbc	North Tyneside	South Tyneside	Sunderland			
Audit and Standards Committee	Tues 10am		19^[4]	8		16		18^[5]		27		24			
	Host Authority			Sunderland		Newcastle				tbc		North Tyneside			

^[1] Annual Meeting

^[2] provisional fallback meeting for specific purposes relating to budget and other financial approvals if required

^[3] OSC Induction workshop

^[4] ASC induction workshop

^[5] ASC development workshop

Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Members	Party	Substitute Members	Party	Appointing Authority
Councillor Nick Brown	Ref	Councillor Tom Redmond	Ref	Durham County Council
Councillor Dawn Saunders	Ref	Councillor Andrew Eales	Ref	
Councillor Dot Burnett	Lab	Councillor Stuart Green	Lab	Gateshead Council
Councillor Dawn Welsh	LD	Councillor Amanda Wintcher	LD	
Councillor Linda Wright	Lab	Councillor Steve Fairlie	Lab	Newcastle City Council
Councillor Colin Ferguson	LD	Councillor Greg Stone	LD	
Councillor Jim Montague	Lab	Councillor Charlie Gray	Lab	North Tyneside Council
Councillor Steve Cox	Lab	Councillor Willie Samuel	Lab	
Councillor Richard Dodd	Con	To be confirmed.	Con	Northumberland County Council
Councillor Barry Elliott	Ref	Councillor Martin Jackson	Ref	
Councillor John McCabe	Lab	Councillor Fay Cunningham	Lab	South Tyneside Council
Councillor David Francis	Green	Councillor Shirley Ford	Green	
Councillor Claire Rowntree	Lab	Councillor Tracy Dodds	Lab	Sunderland City Council
To be confirmed.	Lab	To be confirmed.	Lab	

Membership of the Audit and Standards Committee

Independent (co-opted) Chair: Dave Willis OBE				
Members	Party	Substitute Members	Party	Appointing Authority
Councillor Nick Brown	Ref	Councillor Brian Quirey	Ref	Durham County Council
Councillor Dawn Saunders	Ref	Councillor Andrew Eales	Ref	
Councillor Jill Green	Lab	Councillor Rachel Hart	Lab	Gateshead Council
Councillor Ian Patterson	LD	Councillor Christopher Ord	LD	
Councillor Ged Bell	Lab	Councillor Milo Barnett	Lab	Newcastle City Council
Councillor Mark Mitchell	LD	Councillor Colin Ferguson	LD	
Councillor Frank Lott	Lab	Councillor Tommy Mulvenna	Lab	North Tyneside Council
Councillor John Harrison	Lab	Councillor John O'Shea	Lab	
Councillor Mark Swinburn	Con	To be confirmed.	Con	Northumberland County Council
Councillor Martin Jackson	Ref	Councillor Barry Elliott	Ref	
Councillor Ken Dawes	Lab	Councillor Angela Lamonte	Lab	South Tyneside Council
Councillor David Herbert	Green	Councillor Chris Davies	Green	
Councillor Tracy Dodds	Lab	Councillor Alison Smith	Lab	Sunderland City Council
To be confirmed.	Lab	To be confirmed.	Lab	

Report of the
Durham County Council
Independent Remuneration Panel

to the

North East Combined Authority

May 2025

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel of Durham County Council in relation to the allowances payable to the North East Combined Authority (North East-CA) Independent Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee and Independent Persons appointed for the purposes of the standards regime.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The North East Combined Authority ("the Authority") came into existence on 7 May 2024 under the terms of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2024 ("the Order"). The Order provided for the abolition of the existing North East and North of Tyne Combined Authorities, the election of a North East Mayor and the creation of a new mayoral combined authority for the area covering the 7 local authority areas of Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland.
- 2.2 The Order states that the Authority may pay allowances if:
- (a) it has considered a report published by an independent remuneration panel (IRP) established by it, or by one or more of its constituent councils, which contains recommendations for such an allowance; and
 - (b) the allowance paid does not exceed the amount specified in the recommendation made by the independent remuneration panel.
- 2.3 The Authority does not have its own IRP, the IRP of one of its constituent authorities, Durham County Council, has considered information to allow it to prepare a report and recommendations in relation to the level of allowance payable to the Independent Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee and Independent Persons appointed for the purposes of the standards regime.
- 2.4 The membership of the Panel comprised Mr Ray Morris, who was appointed Chair, Mrs Joyce Drummond-Hill and Mr Alan Fletcher. In addition to being Durham County Council's IRP for several years, the IRP members have been co-opted recently to the City of Sunderland Council's IRP. The panel members have comprehensive experience in and knowledge of local government governance, external and internal audit, audit committees, risk management, members' allowances schemes and other areas relevant to their responsibilities set out in this report. The Panel have endeavoured to provide constructive and objective advice based on this wide and varied experience.
- 2.5 The Panel are grateful to officers of the North East Combined Authority, for their support in providing information and advice to the Panel in relation to the governance arrangements for the Authority.

3. Methodology

- 3.1 The Panel discussed information provided and met with officers of the North East Combined Authority, to further discuss their views to the role and responsibilities of the Independent Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee and Independent Persons appointed for the purposes of the standards regime, the workload of these individuals in their first year of appointment.

4. Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee

- 4.1 The Authority must appoint one independent person to chair its Audit Committee. The Committee's core functions is to review and scrutinise the Authority's financial affairs, to review and assess the Authority's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements and to review and assess the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which resources have been used in discharging the Authority's functions. The Committee also has a role in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Authority members and ensuring they observe the Members' Code of Conduct.
- 4.2 The Panel considered the activity undertaken in relation to the number of meetings that had taken place during the previous year. The Audit & Standards Committee met on 4 occasions and undertook 2 workshops.
- 4.3 The Panel by majority recommends that an annual allowance of £500 plus expenses be payable to the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee for each committee meeting attended and that the allowance be subject to annual increases linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI),

5 Independent Person

- 5.1 Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Authority to appoint at least one Independent Person and to seek the views of the Independent Person(s) and take them into account before making a decision on any allegations that a member of the Authority has breached the Code of Conduct. The views of the Independent Person(s) may also be sought in other circumstances by the authority.
- 5.2 The Independent Person(s) was invited to attend meetings and workshops of the Audit and Standards Committee only when standards matters are to be considered. Their views are sought and taken into consideration before the Committee takes any decision on whether a member's conduct constitutes a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct and as to any action to be taken following a finding of failure to comply with the Code of Conduct. However, the Independent Person(s) are not members of the Committee.
- 5.3 The Panel by majority recommends that an annual allowance of £1,000 be payable to Independent Person(s) appointed for the purposes of the standards regime under Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 and that the allowance be subject to annual increases linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI),

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the North East Combined Authority Cabinet:

- a) agree an allowance of £500 plus expenses be payable to the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee for each committee meeting attended and that the allowance be subject to annual increases linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI); and
- b) agree that an annual allowance be made of £1,000 be payable to Independent Person(s) appointed for the purposes of the standards regime under Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 and that the allowance be subject to annual increases linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).