

A meeting of the: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

will be held on: **Tuesday 2 September 2025**

at: **10.00am**

in: **Committee Room 1A, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL**

to consider the following

AGENDA

Page No

1.	Apologies To record any apologies for absence and the attendance of any substitute members.	
2.	Declarations of Interest Members of the committee are required to declare any registerable and/or non-registerable interests in matters appearing on the agenda, and the nature of that interest, in accordance with the Authority's Code of Conduct for Members .	
3.	Minutes To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 July 2025.	2 - 5
4.	North East Mayor The North East Mayor, Kim McGuinness, has accepted an invitation to meet with the Committee to discuss her vision and priorities for the region and to consider the progress made by the North East CA since its establishment and her election in May 2024. (Members may wish to refer to a report presented to the Committee at its last meeting setting out the Authority's key achievements since May 2024 and the priorities for year two to deliver the short-term pledges set out in the Authority's Corporate Plan 2024-28 .)	
5.	Work Programme 2025/26 To review and revise the overview and scrutiny work programme.	6 - 16
6.	Date and Time of Next Meeting To note that the next scheduled meeting is to be held on Tuesday 21 October 2025 at 10.00am in Civic Centre, Gateshead.	

Contact Officer: Michael Robson, Senior Governance Officer and Scrutiny Officer
Tel: 0191 277 7242 E-mail: michael.robson@northeast-ca.gov.uk www.northeast-ca.gov.uk

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 July 2025

(10.00am)

Meeting held in: Stephenson/Armstrong Room, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne

Minutes

Present: Councillor Colin Ferguson (Chair)
Councillor Dot Burnett
Councillor Steve Cox
Councillor Richard Dodd
Councillor Tracy Dodds
Councillor Steve Fairlie
Councillor David Francis
Councillor Jim Montague
Councillor Tom Redmond
Councillor John Usher

OSC1/7/25 Apologies for Absence and Substitutes

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Nick Brown (Councillor Tom Redmond was present as his substitute)
Councillor Adrian Schulman
Councillor Linda Wright (Councillor Steve Fairlie was present as her substitute)
Councillor John McCabe and his substitute, Councillor Fay Cunningham
Councillor Claire Rowntree (Councillor John Usher was present as her substitute)

OSC2/7/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

OSC3/7/25 Minutes

Resolved that:

1. the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 February 2025 be confirmed and signed as a correct record; and
2. the notes of the meetings of members of the Committee held on 4 March 2025 and 15 April 2025 be noted.

OSC4/7/25 Appointment of Vice Chair

Resolved that Councillor David Francis be appointed as Vice Chair of the Committee for the municipal year 2025/26.

OSC5/7/25 Delivering for the North East: Year One Delivery and Priorities for Year Two

The Committee met with Henry Kippin, Chief Executive, who was accompanied by Alan Reiss, Director of Operations, and Tobyn Hughes, Director of Transport. They presented an overview of the North East CA's key achievements since its establishment and the election of the North East Mayor in May 2024 and they outlined the Authority's priorities for 2025/26 as set out in its Corporate Plan. The Chair highlighted how this information could help guide the Committee in determining its work programme and in preparing lines of enquiry for future meetings with the Mayor and Cabinet members.

During questioning members explored a range of topics in more detail including:

- a) the means by which the Authority could demonstrate it was having a positive impact, including the development of performance management arrangements;
- b) the impact of shorter term revenue funded programmes such as the Mayor's Opportunity Fund, the establishment of a Child Poverty Reduction Unit and the Bus Fares Cap which could be referenced in demonstrating the immediate benefits of devolution in the North East;
- c) the carbon impact of the Authority's £500m investment portfolio and whether there were carbon budgets or environmental performance indicators attached to each programme;
- d) how the Authority's work in relation to job creation and house building could best be delivered to benefit those already living and working in the region;
- e) the distribution of the Authority's projects and programmes across the seven constituent council areas. If necessary, officers offered to present further information to the Committee on the geographical spread of the Authority's work;
- f) the challenges and opportunities associated with the need to install more electric vehicle charging points;
- g) the opportunities to work collaboratively with local universities to develop and retain talent in the region. It was suggested that the Committee may wish to explore this topic in more detail with representatives of the business and education sectors as part of its future work programme;
- h) the limits of the Authority's powers and influence particularly in relation to Education and Health Care Plans and national rail fares;
- i) the support the Authority could provide for the development of the quayside and town centre areas of Gateshead; and
- j) how the shift towards long term continuous transport funding settlements would enable the Authority to co-design and deliver strategies to improve the safety of ensure the transport system recognised that women, girls and other vulnerable groups must feel safe if the network was to be truly accessible.

The Chair thanked officers for their presentation and for answering members' questions. He reflected on a number of key themes to emerge from the discussion and suggested that he, the Vice Chair and Scrutiny Officer give further consideration to how the following topics might be incorporated into the Committee's future work programme:

- a) the Education Improvement Programme;
- b) installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- c) assessing the impact of the Authority's work in all parts of the region's geography;
- d) the retention of skills in the region;
- e) delivery of large regional infrastructure projects, such as the development of Gateshead Quays
- f) assessing the overall impact of the Authority's programmes and projects on the environment and reducing carbon emissions; and
- g) delivery of the Authority's equality, diversity and inclusion objectives and in particular the safety and security of women, girls and other vulnerable groups.

It was **agreed** that:

1. the North East CA's key achievements since its establishment in May 2024 and its priorities for the next year as set out in its Corporate Plan be noted; and
2. the Chair, Vice Chair and Scrutiny Officer give further consideration to the key themes to emerge from the discussion as set out above and how these might be incorporated into the Committee's future work programme.

OSC6/7/25 The Regional Approach to Fulfil Ambitions for the North East Visitor Economy

The Committee met with Henry Kippin, Chief Executive, to examine proposals to redesign and reconfigure NewcastleGateshead Initiative Ltd (NGI) as a new regional body for the delivery of regional visitor economy activity. At its meetings in March and June 2025, the Cabinet had agreed high-level principles underpinning a new regional approach to fulfil its ambitions for the North East visitor economy. The Cabinet had agreed to evolve NGI into a new regional tourism organisation with £1.55m of funding from the Investment Fund to support its transition to a new regional body delivering regional visitor economy activity. Cabinet would receive a further report later this year regarding the outcome of organisational development work to develop an operating model appropriate for the efficient and effective delivery of its functions, proposed next steps and implications for further future investment. The Committee were invited to examine the proposals and to provide comments and observations which may help inform and shape the development of a regional visitor economy body.

During questioning it was noted that further legislation would be required to allow the Authority to introduce a 'tourist tax' and further work would need to be undertaken to obtain the evidence necessary for Cabinet to make an informed decision. It was suggested the Committee could assist in developing policy in this area.

Officers confirmed that the reconfigured body would be re-branded with a different name and launched in the Autumn of 2025.

Members highlighted a number of opportunities for the development of the regional visitor economy including:

- a) the value of a regional body bringing different agencies and partners together to formulate a single consolidated offer of bookable content for visitors;
- b) developing a local visitor offer for crew working on cruise ships visiting the Tyne;
- c) encouraging and directing visitors who may have arrived in the region for one purpose to explore and experience other additional attractions and activities;
- d) encouraging travellers passing through the region to spend time in the region and increase inbound tourism; and
- e) promoting the internal visitor economy ensuring local residents were connected with, and have access to, what is on offer.

The Committee indicated that as the new approach to developing the regional visitor economy began to be delivered it would be interested to examine in more detail the functions and operating model of the new body. It was suggested that such an exercise be undertaken in the Autumn 2025.

It was **agreed** that:

1. the Committee's comments be referred to the Chief Executive to be taken into account as part of the development of a regional visitor economy body and strategy; and
2. the Committee consider undertaking a further scrutiny exercise to examine the functions and operating model of the new regional tourism organisation in the Autumn 2025.

OSC7/7/25 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

The Committee were presented with an outline work programme for consideration and comment and to identify any other priorities for inclusion in the programme. The outline programme had been prepared in consultation with the Chair of the Committee who in turn had sought advice from the Authority's senior officers. The outline programme was based on:

- a) the Committee holding seven public formal meetings during the year;
- b) each Cabinet Member attending the Committee during the year to present and discuss progress on specific priorities set out in the Corporate Plan and falling within their portfolios;
- c) providing the Committee with opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny so that members may help shape and influence policy development before Cabinet makes its decisions;
- d) those scrutiny exercises previously agreed by the Committee; and
- e) making provision for further additional scrutiny activity which may be undertaken during informal briefings, task and finish groups and standing sub-groups.

The programme would need to remain robust and flexible enough so that the Committee could react to changes within the Authority and so scrutiny can be undertaken on policy development as it evolves. It was therefore proposed that programme be presented to each meeting to provide members with a regular opportunity to review and revise it as necessary and the Chair and Vice Chair be authorised to review and revise the programme between meetings so that the Committee may react and respond to changing circumstances.

It was **agreed** that:

1. the outline Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2025/26 be approved;
2. the work programme be presented to each meeting to provide members with a regular opportunity to review and revise the programme as necessary; and
3. the Chair and Vice Chair be authorised to review and revise the programme as necessary between meetings so that the Committee's may react and respond to changing circumstances

OSC8/7/25 Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting would be held on Tuesday 2 September 2025 at 10.00am in County Hall, Durham.

Title: Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2025/26

Report of: Michael Robson, Scrutiny Officer

1. Report Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the latest version of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for review and, if necessary, revision.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to:
- a) review the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme as set out in Appendix A;
 - b) if necessary, propose any additions or changes to the work programme;
 - c) comment on a proposal to appoint two temporary working groups as set out in section 4 of this report; and
 - d) agree that the meeting in December be rescheduled from Tuesday 9 December 2025 to Monday 8 December 2025.

3. Work Programme

- 3.1 The Committee has previously agreed that its work programme be reported to each Committee meeting to enable all members of the Committee to review the work programme, suggest items for inclusion and, if necessary, agree any changes. This will provide flexibility to react to changes within the Authority and so scrutiny can be undertaken on policy development as it evolves. The Chair and Vice Chair will also continually review and revise the work programme as necessary.

4. Working Groups

- 4.1 The Committee may establish temporary working groups to consider specific issues in more depth and to report back to the Committee. The Chair and Vice Chair have considered the possibility of appointing temporary working groups to:
- a) review delivery of the Child Poverty Action Plan and Programme. The plan and programme covering the period 2025-2029 were approved by Cabinet on 22 June 2025.
 - b) contribute to the preparation of a Spatial Development Strategy. The Authority will be required to adopt a Strategy for the region by 2028 and Cabinet have recently agreed an approach to support its development.
- 4.2 Members of the Committee are invited to comment on the option of appointing temporary working groups to consider these areas in more depth, acknowledging that the timescales for both programmes will extend beyond the current municipal year. Should members be supportive of the proposal further work will be undertaken with lead officers to formulate a detailed scoping document for each exercise setting out objectives, lines of enquiry, methodology and timescales and to obtain a commitment from members and substitute members of the Committee to undertake the work. The scoping documents would be presented to the Committee for approval.

5. December Meeting

- 5.1 The work programme includes a site visit to the Northumberland Line in December, followed by a meeting in Ashington. So that the Leader of Northumberland Council and the Cabinet Member for a Welcoming Home to Global Trade, Councillor Sanderson, may attend the meeting it is proposed that the meeting be re-scheduled from Tuesday 9 December 2025 to Monday 8 December 2025.

6. Policy Implications

- 6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee enables local councillors, on behalf of their communities, to scrutinise and challenge the Cabinet and the Mayor on delivery of the Authority's missions and policy objectives set out in the Authority's Corporate Plan and to consider matters of strategic importance to residents within the Authority's area with a view to influencing their decisions.

7. Environmental Implications

- 7.1 The Chair and Vice Chair have asked that each report presented to the Committee should include commentary on the environmental implications of the topic, programme and project under consideration.

8. Equalities Implications

- 8.1 In determining its work programme the Committee should be mindful of the Authority's Public Sector Equality duty and in reviewing and scrutinising matters it should consider whether what is before them:
- a) eliminates discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
 - b) advances equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and
 - c) fosters good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

9. Consultation and Engagement

- 9.1 The work programme is regularly reviewed by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee and is subject to consultation with the Authority's Senior Leadership Team.

10. Appendices

Appendix A – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme as at 20 Aug 2025

11. Background Papers

The following background documents have been used in the compilation of this report and are available for inspection either by clicking on the links below or by contacting the report author:

- [Minutes of previous meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#)
- [Overview and scrutiny: statutory guidance for councils, combined authorities and combined county authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Scrutiny Protocol for English institutions with devolved powers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Centre for Governance and Scrutiny - Overview and scrutiny in combined authorities: a plain English guide 2nd Edition](#)

12. Contact Officers

Michael Robson, Senior Governance Officer and Scrutiny Officer
Michael.robson@northeast-ca.gov.uk 0191 277 7242

The North East CA has appointed an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to enable local councillors, on behalf of their communities, to scrutinise and challenge the Cabinet and the Mayor and to consider matters of importance to residents within the Authority's area with a view to influencing their decisions. Effective scrutiny arrangements are an essential component of local democracy, enhancing accountability and transparency of decision making.

This work programme sets out how the Committee intends to fulfil this role. The programme will be regularly reviewed and refreshed by the Committee so that it can react to changes within the Authority and so scrutiny can be undertaken on policy development as it evolves.

When deciding whether an item should be included in the work programme, the Committee should consider the following evaluative questions:

- Do we understand the benefits scrutiny would bring to this issue?
- How could we best carry out work on this subject?
- What would be the best outcome of this work?
- How would this work engage with the activity of the executive and other decision-makers, including partners?"

Anyone who has any suggestions for inclusion in the work programme can contact:

Michael Robson

Senior Governance Officer

Email: michael.robson@northeast-ca.gov.uk

Tel: 0191 277 7242

Part A – Formal Committee Meetings

15 July 2025 – Newcastle Civic Centre		
Scrutiny Exercise	Lead Officer/Member	Background Notes
Annual Report To receive an annual report from the Chief Executive on the key achievements in year one of the North East CA, the priorities for year two to deliver the missions set out in the Corporate Plan and how the Committee can contribute to this work.	Henry Kippin Chief Executive All Directors	A progress report was considered by Cabinet on 10 June 2025 .
The Regional Approach to Fulfil Ambitions for the North East Visitor Economy To examine proposals to redesign and reconfigure NewcastleGateshead Initiative Ltd (NGI) as a new regional body for the delivery of regional visitor economy activity.	Henry Kippin Chief Executive Phil Witcherley Director of Economic Growth and Regeneration	
Work Programme To approve the overview and scrutiny work programme 2025-26.	Michael Robson Scrutiny Officer	

2 September 2025 – Durham County Hall		
North East Mayor To meet with the North East Mayor to provide the Committee with: a) an opportunity to discuss her vision and priorities for the region; and b) to consider the progress made by the North East CA since its establishment in May 2024.	Kim McGuinness North East Mayor	
Work Programme To review and, if necessary, revise the work programme.	Michael Robson Scrutiny Officer	
21 October 2025 – Gateshead Civic Centre		
Transport To examine delivery of transport priorities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus Improvement and Reform • New smart payment technology • The extension of the Metro system • Expanding EV public charging network 	Councillor Martin Gannon Cabinet Member for Transport Tobyn Hughes Director of Transport	Transport Plan
Metro To examine the current performance of the metro system.	Tobyn Hughes Director of Transport Catherine Massarella Nexus	
Integrated Settlement, Outcomes Framework and Readiness Assessment To examine the latest performance information, consider preparations for an integrated settlement in 2026/27 and discuss future reporting arrangements to the Committee.	Councillor Michael Mordey Cabinet Member for Finance and Investment Mags Scott Director of Finance and Investment	
Carbon Reduction To examine and assess the Authority's overall strategic approach to reducing carbon emissions and achieving the region's carbon targets.	Phil Witcherly Alan Reiss Rob Hamilton Ross Lowrie	Deferred from 2 Sept
Unlocking Finance for North East Businesses to start, and to grow To receive a progress report in relation to the management of the funds in 12 months time.	Rob Hamilton, Head of Strategy and innovation	Previously reported to the Committee on 5 November 2024.
Monday 8 December 2025 – Ashington Town Hall, Northumberland		
Inward Investment To examine the region's approach to attracting inward investment into the North East England.	Councillor Glen Sanderson Cabinet Member for a Welcoming Home to Global Trade	Home - Invest NEE

	Phil Witcherley Director of Economic Growth and Regeneration	
	Guy Currey, Head of Inward Investment	
Northumberland Line To undertake a site visit and travel on the Northumberland Line to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> learn more about the development and construction of rail schemes from members of the Northumberland County Council's project team talking through the key features of the scheme and lessons learnt; and review and assess the benefits of the investment in the transport infrastructure 	Stuart McNaughton Head of Strategic Transport and Climate Change Northumberland CC Maria Antoniou Ian Freshwater	
13 January 2026 – North Tyneside		
Offshore Wind Industries To examine investment in infrastructure, innovation and skills to drive forward the North East offshore wind industry and create new jobs and careers.	Karen Clark Cabinet Member for Home to the Green Energy Revolution	
Retrofit To consider the long term strategy and action plan to tackle cold, damp homes and fuel poverty, and prepare for devolved funding for retrofit by 2028.	Phil Witcherley Director of Economic Growth and Regeneration	
Revised Budget and Corporate Plan Proposals a) To consider the revised Budget & Corporate Plan proposals; b) To make any recommendations and/or observations to the Mayor/Cabinet.	Mags Scott, Director of Finance and Investment Alan Reiss Director of Operations	
10 February 2026 – South Tyneside		
Child Poverty Reduction To examine the five-year Child Poverty Action Plan setting out how the North East CA will use the collective levers and resources available to prevent and reduce child poverty.	Councillor Tracey Dixon Cabinet Member for the Home of Real Opportunity Charlotte Carpenter Director of Skills, Inclusion and Public Sector Reform	It is proposed that a working group be appointed to review delivery of the programme over its lifetime.
New Deal for North East Workers To review and assess: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development of Connect to Work and Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programmes SHINE Employer Accreditation Scheme Regional Skills Strategy Design of all-age career guidance 		Connect to Work and Economic Inactivity Trailblazer previously considered Feb 2025.
Economic Inactivity The Local Growth Plan stated that economic inactivity in the North East was high and rising		

and that by reducing inactivity linked to ill health to national levels would mean 45,000 more economically active people in the North East. At their meeting on 15 April 2025 members referred to the increasing levels of obesity and other health issues among children which were likely to lead to increased levels of inactivity in working age people in the future. The underpinning determinants of ill health among children required attention by the Authority working with its partners as part of the public service reform agenda. It was suggested that this topic should form part of the Committee's future work programme.		
Education Improvement Programme To review and assess the impact of the programme on factors such as attendance, exclusions and child poverty.	Adrian Dougherty, Head of Public Services Innovation Andrew Garrad, Senior Programme Manager	Previously examined by Committee in February 2025. Deferred from Sept 2025
Highways Maintenance Funding To review the adequacy and delivery of the Authority's approach to allocating highways maintenance funding be scheduled for February 2026; and	Jonathan Bailes Head of Transport Programmes	Minute OSC22/02/25 refers
31 March 2026 - Sunderland		
New and Affordable Homes To examine delivery of regeneration and brownfield land programmes to build more quality and affordable homes and the development of a Spatial Development Strategy.	Councillor Andrew Husband Cabinet Member for A North East we are Proud to Call Home Phil Witcherley Director of Economic Growth and Regeneration	
Foundational Economy The Local Growth Plan includes a section on supporting growth within the foundational economy. At their meeting on 15 April 2025 members expressed an interest in examining this aspect of the Plan in more detail as part of its future work programme.	Councillor Karen Kilgour Cabinet Member for a Home to a Growing and Vibrant Economy Phil Witcherley Director of Economic Growth and Regeneration	John McCabe, Chair of the Business Board and/or Rhiannon Bearne NECC are willing to attend.
July 2026		
North East Mayor To receive an annual report from the North East Mayor on the key achievements in the past year and the priorities for the next year as set out in the Corporate Plan.	Kim McGuinness North East Mayor Henry Kippin Chief Executive	

2026-27		
Bus Reform To consider the outcome of the Bus Franchising Assessment.	Tobyn Hughes, Director of Transport	Bus Reform Options were previously considered in Oct 2024.
Metro Expansion and Leamside Line To consider the Outline Business Case for the Washington Metro Loop and the Strategic Outline Case for the re-opening of the southern section of the Leamside Line.	Tobyn Hughes, Director of Transport	

Part B - Informal Briefings

July to October – Remote on Teams		
Portfolio Briefings To meet informally with Cabinet Members to receive an overview of their portfolios and <ol style="list-style-type: none"> enable members to gain a better understanding of the Authority's missions and priorities for the year ahead; and identify opportunities where the Committee could make a contribution to the development of the Authority's future policies and strategies. 		
16 December 2025 – The Lumen and remotely on Teams		
Initial Budget Proposals To receive a briefing from officers in relation to the Cabinet and Mayor's initial budget and Corporate Plan proposals.	Mags Scott Director of Finance and Investment Alan Reiss Director of Operations	To prepare members to undertake the more formal scrutiny exercise in January.
tba		
Devolution Bill Members have asked that they be provided with regular briefings on the development and implementation of the Government's devolution policies outlined in the White Paper.	Alan Reiss Director of Operations	

Part C – Working Groups

Child Poverty Action Plan Cabinet on 22 July 2025 agreed the NE Child Poverty Action Plan.pdf and approved the allocation of £28.6m for a four year delivery period from the NECA Investment Fund to deliver the Child Poverty Reduction Programme (2025–2029). It is proposed that the Committee appoint a temporary working group to examine delivery of the programme.
Spatial Development Strategy The Authority will be required to prepare and adopt a Spatial Development Strategy for the region by 2028. In July 2025 the Cabinet agreed an approach to support the development of the Spatial Development Strategy. It is proposed that the Committee appoint a temporary working group to contribute to the development of the strategy.

Part D – Training & Development

17 June 2025 – Remote on Teams
For all members to be delivered by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) to support elected members with continuing to develop their skills and knowledge of scrutiny in a combined authority.
11 July 2025 – Remote on Teams
For new members to introduce them to the operation of the North East CA, its purpose, missions and governance arrangements.

Part D – Potential Exercises

The following topics have been identified as possible areas for examination but the timing and method of scrutiny have yet to be determined. There are a range of methods which may be used including formal committee meetings, the appointment of task and finish groups, meetings with the Mayor and Cabinet members, informal briefings, workshops, all day inquiries, fact finding visits or community engagement.

Scrutiny Exercise	Lead Cabinet Member /Officer(s)	Notes
<p>At the meeting in July 2025 it was agreed that the Chair, Vice Chair and Scrutiny Officer consider how the following topics might be incorporated into the Committee's future work programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Education Improvement Programme; b) installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure; c) assessing the impact of the Authority's work in all parts of the region's geography; d) the retention of skills in the region; e) delivery of large regional infrastructure projects, such as the development of Gateshead Quays f) assessing the overall impact of the Authority's programmes and projects on the environment and reducing carbon emissions; and g) delivery of the Authority's equality, diversity and inclusion objectives and in particular the safety and security of women, girls and other vulnerable groups. 		<p>Scheduled for February Scheduled for October</p> <p>Scheduled for October</p> <p>Transport aspects to be considered in October.</p>
<p>Skills Retention</p> <p>It has been suggested that the Committee may wish to explore the opportunities to work collaboratively with local universities to develop and retain talent in the region with representatives of the business and education sectors.</p>		

<p>Distribution of North East CA Work</p> <p>If necessary, officers have offered to present further information to the Committee on the geographical spread of the Authority's work across the seven constituent council areas.</p>		
<p>Tourist Tax</p> <p>Whilst noting further legislation would be required to allow the Authority to introduce a tourist tax and further work would need to be undertaken to obtain the evidence necessary for Cabinet to make an informed decision, it was suggested the Committee could assist in developing policy in this area.</p>		
<p>Regional Visitor Economy Body</p> <p>the Committee consider undertaking a further scrutiny exercise to examine the functions and operating model of the new regional tourism organisation in the Autumn 2025.</p>		

Part D – Action List

The action list below records and tracks the Committee's requests for information.

Meeting Item	Requested Action	Outcome/Status	Owner
16 July 2024 Minute OSC5/7/24	Members asked that they be provided with supplementary information regarding expenditure on consultancy support for the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) programme.	Information circulated with written monthly briefing on 19 August 2024.	Jonathan Bailes Head of Transport Programmes Eleanor Goodman Finance Manager
8 Oct 2024 Note 2 of Appendix to Minutes	It was reported that multi-operator, multi-modal capped tickets targeted at those aged 21 and under had increased usage in the age group by 25%. Officers undertook to provide members of the Committee with further details.	Information circulated with written monthly briefing on 4 November 2024.	Heather Jones Head of Enhanced Partnerships
8 Oct 2024 Note 3 of Appendix to Minutes	Members asked that they be notified of the commencement of the public consultation exercise.	Information circulated with written monthly briefing on 4 November 2024.	Jen Robson Head of Business Transformation, Performance and Insights
5 Nov 2024 OSC13/11/24	A briefing note setting out initial progress on Unlocking Finance for North East Businesses to start, and to grow be provided to members of the Committee after 6 months.	Update provided as part of written briefing on 5 August 2025.	Mark Stamper Head of Economic Delivery
5 Nov 2024 OSC15/11/24	It was agreed that the OSCs comments regarding the Mayor's Opportunity Fund be referred to relevant officers to be considered as part of the mobilisation of the Fund.	Comments referred to the Chief Exec, Director of Operations and Director of Finance on 11 Nov 2024.	Michael Robson Scrutiny Officer
10 Dec 2024 Note 2	Members asked that they be provided with training to help them to read and interpret the Authority's budget monitoring reports.	Delivered during the budget workshop held on 14 January 2025.	Mags Scott Director of Finance & Investment
10 Dec 2024 Note 2	Officers undertook to provide members of the Committee with supplementary information in relation to: i) the operating profit of TT2 Ltd, the operator of the Tyne Tunnels; and ii) details of the Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) maturity loans held by the Authority.	Information circulated to members on 28 January 2025	Mags Scott Director of Finance & Investment

4 Feb 2025 OSC20/02/25	A programme performance pack setting out key progress updates, committed funding, forecast expenditure and forecast outputs, due to be presented to the Finance and Investment Board be provided to members of the Committee.	The pack was circulated to members on 13 March 2025	Mags Scott Director of Finance & Investment
4 March 2025 Note 2	Officers undertook to provide clarification regarding the current eligibility and costs of the Metro Gold Card.	Information circulated to members on 13 March 2025.	Philip Meikle, Assistant Director of Transport
15 April 2025 Note 3	Members asked that they be provided with regular briefings on the development and implementation of the Government's devolution policies outlined in the White Paper.	Details of Devolution Bill shared with members in written briefing on 5 August 2025.	Michael Robson Scrutiny Officer
15 April 2025 Note 4	Members asked for further evidence of the £14bn turnover and 48,000 jobs in the defence and space industries based in the region and the expected growth in the UK defence sector by 50% over next five years.	References sent to members on 6 May 2025.	Rob Hamilton Head of Innovation and Strategy