

## NORTH EAST JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

### RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION BY OFFICER

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#### 1. Subject of Decision

Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 – Grant Funding Agreements, Sunderland Station

#### 2. Delegation Reference (Refer to Meeting Minute Number or Delegation Scheme in the Constitution or Decision Notice)

Decision Notice – Joint Transport Committee - 13 July 2021

Item 8: RESOLVED: The North East Joint Transport Committee:

- (i) Delegated authority to the Transport North East Managing Director, in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer, to approve the release of £16,326,814 from the TCF Devolved Pot to the Sunderland Station scheme, subject to successful appraisal in line with Transport Assurance Framework.
- (ii) Instructed officers to prepare and execute a Grant Funding Agreement with Sunderland City Council for the Sunderland Station scheme.

This decision has been delegated to one or more officer(s) under:

(a) A specific express authorisation was given to the *Proper Officer for Transport* by the *Joint Transport Committee* on *13.07.2021* to make and enter into appropriate contracts in relation to each project after specified consultation.

(b) a general authorisation to take such decisions **and**, the effect of the decision is to:

(i) grant a permission or licence;

(ii) affect the rights of an individual; or

(iii) award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects the Authority's financial position.

**NORTH EAST JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**  
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**3. Name and Title of Decision Maker**

Tobyn Hughes  
Proper Officer for Transport for the North East Joint Transport Committee  
Managing Director, Transport North East  
Tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk

**4. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest**

None.

**5. Executive Summary**

This delegated decision will approve and allocate funding from the Transforming Cities Fund Devolved Pot to the Sunderland Station scheme, following successful appraisal in accordance with the Transport Assurance Framework.

It is necessary to expedite approval of the scheme, given the need to start on site in August 2021, in order to meet the construction programme within Transforming Cities Fund timelines. Delegated authority was sought from the Joint Transport Committee for the Transport North East Managing Director, in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer, subject to successful appraisal of the scheme business case and due diligence in line with the Transport Assurance Framework, to approve the Sunderland Station scheme and enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Sunderland City Council.

This delegation will be exercised in two parts due to the time critical nature of the station concourse elements, appraisal on this element of the Sunderland Station scheme has been expedited and was successfully concluded on 30/07/2021. As such £11,700,094 of the £16,326,814 Transforming Cities Fund allocation for Sunderland Station will be approved by this delegated decision. A grant funding agreement for the station concourse works will be entered into. A second delegation will be made for the outstanding balance (£4,626,720) following the remaining elements of the Sunderland Station scheme progressing successfully through appraisal.

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---

#### 6. Decision(s)

**6(a)** Provide and enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Sunderland City Council for £11,700,094 from the TCF Devolved Pot allocation for the Sunderland Station scheme.

**6(b) If Exempt or Confidential, please provide a reason:**

N/A

#### 7. Alternative options considered

As part of the business case development for Sunderland Station a range of delivery options were assessed against value for money, risk and deliverability considerations. A preferred option was selected and progressed on the understanding that the approach offered the best mix of benefits offset against a comparably lower level delivery risk. The business case demonstrates why the chosen solution provides the best option in terms of meeting passenger needs whilst also providing value for public money.

Two options were presented to the North East Joint Transport Committee.

Option 1 – The North East Joint Transport Committee confer delegated authority to the Transport North East Managing Director, in consultation with the S73 Officer and the Monitoring Officer, to prepare and execute a Grant Funding Agreement with Sunderland City Council subject to a successful appraisal in line with the agreed regional Transport Assurance Framework, enabling the Sunderland Station scheme to deliver within TCF programme timescales.

Option 2 - The North East Joint Transport Committee do not accept the recommendations, in which case the Sunderland Station will not be able to deliver in line with the TCF programme timescales and the passenger benefits outlined within the business case of the scheme would not be realised.

The Joint Transport Committee approved Option 1.

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**8. Reasons for the Decision(s)**

The programme for the delivery of the scheme is on a critical path, Sunderland City Council are scheduled to enter into a contract for station works imminently, with the first phase of works on the station elements of the scheme due to start in August 2021, whilst works on the MSCP will commence in April 2022. It is envisaged that all station works will be complete by January 2023, and remaining elements in relation to the MSCP will complete in March 2023.

Given the aforementioned time constraints associated with the programme of delivery for the scheme and the lack of an available Committee date in August, delegated authority was sought to approve the scheme business case subject to a positive appraisal outcome. It is vital that the decision-making process required to enable Sunderland City Council and NECA to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) can be expedited so as not to forestall critical stages of delivery.

This delegation will be exercised in two parts due to the time critical nature of the station concourse elements, appraisal on this element of the Sunderland Station scheme has been expedited and was successfully concluded on 30/07/2021. As such £11,700,094 of the £16,326,814 Transforming Cities Fund allocation for Sunderland Station will be approved by this delegated decision which will enable the Sunderland Station scheme to deliver within TCF programme timescales.

**9. Contact Officer**

Jonathan Bailes  
Transport Programme Lead  
[Jonathan.Bailes@transportnortheast.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathan.Bailes@transportnortheast.gov.uk)

**10. Date of Publication**

30 July 2021

**11. Date of Call-In Deadline**

21 July 2021

**NORTH EAST JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**  
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**12. Implementation Date**

30 July 2021

**Signature of the Decision Maker**



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Please return the following to Emma Reynard in Democratic Services  
([emmareynard@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:emmareynard@gateshead.gov.uk)) **within 2 working days of the decision having been taken.**

- A Word version of the completed Delegated Decision report
- A Word version of the completed Delegated Decision Record
- A scanned PDF version of the completed and signed Delegated Decision Record

The Delegated Decision will be published by Democratic Services within three working days of it being taken, and it will then be open to call-in for a further five working days.

**Decisions must not be implemented until the call-in process is completed.** Democratic Services officers will advise report authors and decision makers of the relevant deadlines for call-in.