

**Decision Title:**

North East Economic Inactivity Trailblazer – Regional Labour Market Intelligence, Areas of Research Interest

**Is this decision Key or Non-key?**

Non-key

**If the decision is Key, has the decision been published on the Forward Plan?**

N/A

**Is this decision subject to Call-in?**

No

**Decision:**

Note the outcome of the procurement process and approve the award of a contract to design and test an Areas of Research Interest (ARI) model as a proof of concept for supporting the ongoing production, coordination and dissemination of regional labour market intelligence that informs policy design and delivery. As part of the test, the contract will require a small number of research inquiries to be undertaken.

Confidential – Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**Delegation:**

Decision No. 65/01/25 2025- 26 of the Cabinet meeting held on 28 January 2025, Cabinet resolved to:

14. Authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Investment and relevant Cabinet Member, to approve commencement of the associated procurement activity with respect to Made Smarter, UK SPF and the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programmes and subsequent award of contracts.

15. Authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Investment, Monitoring Officer and relevant Cabinet Member to approve project applications and contracts brought forward through the approved Made Smarter, UK SPF and Economic Inactivity Trailblazer Delivery Plans, in line with the North East Single Assurance Framework.

**Consultation:**

Cabinet Member:	Yes
Monitoring Officer:	Yes
Director of Finance and Investment:	Yes

**Name and Title of the Decision-Maker:**

Dr Henry Kippin, Chief Executive, North East Combined Authority

**Contact Officer:**

Ruth Gaul

Principal Programme Manager

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**Signature (Decision-Maker)**

**Date of signing 10/09/2025**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. C. P. M.', is written over the date.