

NORTH EAST JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION BY OFFICER

1. Subject of Decision

Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 – Grant Funding Agreements (Durham Walking and Cycling Improvements)

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

Recommendation iii and iv of the Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 – Grant Funding Agreements paper presented at the Joint Transport Committee meeting held on 20/12/2022.

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 20.12.2022 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.

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

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

NORTH EAST JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION BY OFFICER

None

5. Executive Summary

This delegated decision will approve and allocate funding from the Transforming Cities Fund Devolved Pot to the Durham County Council, Durham Walking and Cycling Improvements scheme following successful appraisal in accordance with the Transport Assurance Framework.

It was necessary to expedite approval of the scheme in order to meet the construction programme outlined within the scheme Business Case 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 scheme and enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Durham County Council.

6. Decision(s)

6(a) Provide and enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Durham County Council for £2,811,524 from the TCF Devolved Pot allocation for the Durham Walking and Cycling Improvements scheme.

NORTH EAST JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION BY OFFICER**

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

N/A

7. Alternative options considered

As part of the Business Case development for the Durham Walking and Cycling Improvements scheme 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 the needs of the public 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 Durham County Council subject to a successful appraisal in line with the agreed regional Transport Assurance Framework, enabling the Durham Walking and Cycling Improvements scheme to deliver as soon as possible and expedite the delivery of the Transforming Cities Fund programme.

Option 2 - The North East Joint Transport Committee do not accept the recommendations, in which case the Durham Walking and Cycling Improvements scheme will not be able to deliver in line with the timescales and the benefits outlined within the Business Case and the delivery of the Transforming Cities Fund programme would be delayed.

The Joint Transport Committee approved Option 1.

NORTH EAST JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION BY OFFICER**

8. Reasons for the Decision(s)

The programme for the delivery of the scheme is on a critical path, Durham County Council have programmed in works to commence in May 2023 and need their allocated funding to allow them to continue on this path in order for the scheme to deliver to the agreed timescales within the Business Case.

Given the aforementioned time constraints associated with the programme of delivery for the scheme, 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 Durham County Council and NECA to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) can be expedited so as not to forestall critical stages of delivery.

Appraisal on the Full Business Case was successfully concluded on 14 April 2023.

9. Contact Officer

Jonathan Bailes

Transport Programme Lead

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10. Date of Publication

17/05/2023

11. Date of Call-In Deadline**12. Implementation Date**

NORTH EAST JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

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Signature of the Decision-Maker



Please return the following to Emma Reynard in Democratic Services (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.