

**Decision Title:**

North East Economic Inactivity Trailblazer Transitional Year 2026/27 Update

**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:**

The decision is not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person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

The decision is to:

- Approve entering into the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Grant Funding Agreement for the Trailblazer Grant – Year 2 (2026/27) totalling £10,000,000 for delivery from April 2026 to 31 March 2027.
- Approve the allocation of £5,058,178 of Economic Inactivity (EI) Trailblazer funding for project extensions in the year 2026/27 and agree to enter into Deeds of Variation to the existing Grant Agreements for the projects set out in Section 1.6 and Appendix 1. This latter step to be taken only once the Grant Funding Agreement for Year 2 has been fully agreed and signed by both the North East CA and DWP.

**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.

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**Consultation:**

Cabinet Member:	Yes
Assistant Director Legal and Governance:	Yes
Director of Finance and Investment:	Yes

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

Dr Henry Kippin, Chief Executive, North East Combined Authority
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**Contact Officer:**

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**Signature (Decision-Maker)**



**Date of signing 24/03/2026**