

**Decision Title:**

Bus Service Improvement Plan – Rural Optimised User-centred Transport EcoSystem (ROUTES)

**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:**

**Option 1: Non-confidential decision:**

- I. Approve a funding allocation of £904,551 for the delivery of the Programme through the 'Discover/Define' and 'Develop/Deliver' phases.
- II. Agree to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) with Weardale Community Transport Limited, as lead delivery partner, to enable delivery of both phases of the Programme.

**Option 2: Confidential decision:**

N/A

**Delegation:**

Minute Number C6/5/24 (4) of the Cabinet meeting held on 7 May 2024, Cabinet resolved that: •

- The formal decisions which the former North East Joint Transport Committee made be treated as decisions of the Authority.

Cabinet meeting held on 30 July 2024, Cabinet C24/7/24 North East Combined Authority Strategic Portfolio Plans, Cabinet: 9. the following investment be approved in principle and delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, to enter into the relevant agreements as required, in accordance with the Single Assurance Framework: • £60.811 million (revenue) and £40.468 million (capital) of Bus Service Improvement Plan funding to deliver a range of improvements to bus services, to be delivered by partners through Grant Funding Agreements.

Cabinet meeting held on 9 December 2025 Decision No. 50/12/25 Governance Update, Cabinet resolved to approve the revised Scheme of Officer Delegations set out at Appendix 1. North East Combined Authority Constitution: Part 2.7 B: Scheme of Delegations: Part B: Delegations to the Head of Paid Service HPS 16 To award and sign a grant offer or agreement up to £5m.

**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

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**Signature (Decision-Maker)**



**Date of signing: 22 April 2026**