

Decision Title:

Made Smarter Digital Adoption: continuation of the Manufacturing programme and establishing a Professional Business Services Programme

Is this decision Key or Non-key?

Key

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

Yes

Notice of proposed decision first published: 24/03/2026

Is this decision subject to Call-in?

Yes

Decision:

Confidential 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The decision is not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person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 Chief Executive

1. Approved the allocation of £2,750,813 from the North East CA's Integrated Settlement Economic Growth and Regeneration pillar to fund the Programme.
2. Authorised commencement of the procurement process to commission service providers to deliver the activity as described within this report.

The Director of Finance and Investment:

1. Agreed to accept funding in the sum of £849,183 from the Department of Business and Trade (DBT) on behalf of the Tees Valley Combined Authority (Tees Valley CA) to deliver Made Smarter Adoption for Manufacturing for the 2026/2029 period and to sign a Memorandum of Understanding and any other documents required by DBT to give effect to this decision.
2. Agreed to accept funding in the sum of £3,730,000 for the Professional Business Services programme on behalf of both the Tees Valley CA and North East CA from the Department of Business and Trade and to sign a Memorandum of Understanding and any other documents required by the Department of Business and Trade to give effect to this decision.
3. Agreed to sign Partnership Agreements with Tees Valley CA in respect of the delivery and funding of both strands of the Programme.

--

Delegation:

North East Combined Authority Constitution: Part 2.7 B: Scheme of Delegations: Part B:

Delegations to the Head of Paid Service

HPS3 To discharge any function of the Authority which has not been specifically delegated to another officer, Committee or reserved to the Cabinet under Part 2.1 of this Constitution, and to direct any officer not to exercise a delegated function in special circumstances unless they are required to do so by law.

HPS13 To authorise all stages of the procurement process for a contract for: a. goods and/or services up to a value of £5m; b. works up to a value of £5m.

Delegations to the Chief Finance Officer

CFO5 To accept grant offers on behalf of the Authority, subject to all the terms and conditions set out by the grant awarding body.

Consultation:

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

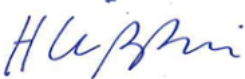
Name and Title of the Decision-Maker:

Dr Henry Kippin, Chief Executive, North East Combined Authority
Mags Scott, Director of Finance and Investment

Contact Officer:

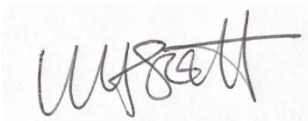
Paul Hughes
Business Growth Advisor (Made Smarter)
Paul.hughes@northeast-ca.gov.uk

Signature – Henry Kippin, Chief Executive (Decision-Maker)



Date of signing: 12 May 2026

Signature – Mags Scott, Director of Finance and Investment (Decision-Maker)



Date of signing: 12 May 2026