

Officer Delegated Decision Record

Decision Title:

Bus Reform – Proposal to undertake consultation on bus franchising scheme

Is this decision Key or Non-key?

Non-key

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

Not applicable

Is this decision subject to Call-in?

No

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

The Chief Executive is recommended to:

1. agree that a statutory consultation (in accordance with section 123E of the Transport Act 2000) and a public consultation are undertaken in respect of the proposed bus franchising scheme; and
2. authorise the publication of
 - a. a consultation document relating to the proposed scheme;
 - b. the franchising scheme assessment; and
 - c. the independent auditor's report; and
3. authorise officers to carry out any tasks necessary to undertake the consultation, including giving notice of the proposed scheme.

Option 2: Confidential decision:

Not applicable

Delegation:

Cabinet 17 March 2026

Minute C66/03/26 Bus Reform: approval to progress the Franchising Scheme Assessment

Cabinet agreed, in accordance with section 123D of the Transport Act 2000, to obtain a report from an independent auditor on the franchising scheme assessment, and delegate authority to the Chief Executive of the North East MSA to take the following steps in order to achieve this:

- a. Make any minor amendments required to the franchising scheme assessment in advance of the audit commencing, provided that any such minor amendments do not materially impact the assessment's conclusions and recommendations;*
- b. Undertake any tasks necessary as part of the audit process and to enable the independent auditor to provide a report.*

Cabinet agreed, where there is a positive audit outcome, to carry out a consultation in accordance with section 123E of the Transport Act 2000, and additionally undertake a public consultation, and

delegate authority to the Chief Executive of the North East MSA to, where there is a positive audit outcome, take the following steps to proceed with the franchising scheme proposal:

A. Publish

- i) A consultation document relating to the proposed scheme*
- ii) The franchising scheme assessment*
- iii) The independent auditor's report*

B. Carry out any tasks necessary to undertake the consultation, including giving notice of the proposed scheme.

Consultation:

Cabinet Member:	No
Assistant Director Legal and Governance:	Yes
Director of Finance and Investment:	Yes

Name and Title of the Decision-Maker:

Henry Kippin, Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Tobyn Hughes
Director of Transport
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Signature (Decision-Maker) ...



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Date of signing 02/07/2026.....