

Notice to Chair/Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of a special urgency exception to the publication of the intention to make a key decision

DATE: 24 April 2020

TO: Chair/Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA)

SUBJECT: CrowdFund North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

NOTICE BY: John Softly, Monitoring Officer

Executive Summary:

This notice informs Chair/Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee under Paragraph 13 of the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 that it is impracticable to include the above item on the NTCA Forward Plan for a period of 28 clear days before the decision is made and that the matter is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.

In accordance with Paragraph 13 2 (b) of the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 a copy of this notice will be published on the North of Tyne Combined Authority website.

1. Background

- 1.1 Where a decision maker intends to make a key decision, that decision must not be made until at least 28 clear days public notice has been given.
- 1.2 Where the publication of the intention to make a key decision is impracticable, that decision may only be made where:
 - a) the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or Vice-Chair in the absence of Chair) has been informed of the matter about which the decision is to be made and has agreed that the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be delayed; and
 - b) notice of the decision to be made and the Chair/Vice-Chair's agreement that it is urgent and cannot reasonably be delayed has been made available for public inspection at the Combined Authority's Office and published on the Combined Authority's website.
- 1.3 This notice is to confirm that i) the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been informed that it has been impracticable to give 28 clear days public notice of the item set out below, for the reasons set out below, and that it is intended that the key decision will be made on the date specified below; and ii) that the Chair has agreed that the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be delayed.
- 1.4 Notice is also given to the public that the reasons why compliance with the requirements for publicity in connection with key decisions are impracticable are set out below.

2. Notice Details

2.1 Date of Decision required

24 April 2020

2.2 Matter in respect to which decision is to be made

Crowdfund North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) – Response to Covid-19 Pandemic

2.3 Description

To help supplement the support provided nationally by the Government, a £1m Crowdfund North East Fund (CNEF) is being proposed to help micro

businesses and ensure the impact of the pandemic on the North East economy is mitigated.

The decision by the North of Tyne Combined Authority, acting as Accountable Body for the North East LEP, is to enter into all relevant contractual arrangements to enable the CNEF to become operational.

2.4 Decision Maker

Head of Paid Service, North of Tyne Combined Authority

2.5 Consultation Process

The Head of Paid Service, Interim Monitoring Officer and Interim Section 73 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) and the Head of Economic Growth and the Head of Policy and Performance have all been consulted and agreed that the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be delayed.

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been consulted and agreed that the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be delayed.

2.6 Background Documents

Latest guidance and Government initiatives in response to Coronavirus published here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

2.7 Reasons why impracticable to give 28 days clear notice

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there is an urgency to implement the funding scheme to ensure that businesses in the North East LEP region have the opportunity to access the grant funding at the earliest opportunity.

Any delays in implementation would mean in impact of the funding scheme would be reduced, and it would take longer for eligible businesses to access these grant funds; which could ultimately lead to loss of employment and failure of businesses.

The Monitoring Officer has examined the background and context of this decision and concurs that it is impracticable for this decision to be placed on the Forward Plan 28 days before it is made.

John Softly
Interim Monitoring Officer

Date of Notice: 24 April 2020