

Cabinet

Tuesday, 21 March 2023 at 4.30 pm

Meeting to be held: Committee Room, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH
This meeting will also be streamed live on YouTube at <https://youtube.com/live/psCfowTY3Ic>

For more information, please visit www.northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

AGENDA

Page No

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Please remember to declare any personal interest where appropriate both verbally and by recording it on the relevant form (to be submitted to the Democratic Services Officer). Please also remember to leave the meeting where any personal interest requires this.

Note: Members of Cabinet have been granted dispensations so that they may participate in decisions which relate to the constituent authority which appointed them.

3. **Any announcements from the Mayor and/or the Chief Executive**

4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** 1 - 6

5. **NTCA Annual Report** 7 - 18

6. **Devolution Update - Presentation**
7. **Education Improvement and Child Poverty Prevention** **19 - 26**
8. **Devolved Adult Education Budget mid-year update** **27 - 42**
9. **NTCA 2021-22 Statement of Accounts** **43 - 46**
10. **Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

Tuesday, 6 June 2023 at 2pm (Annual Meeting).

Contact Officer: Victoria Miller
Tel: 0191 211 5118
Email: Victoria.Miller@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk



Minutes

Cabinet

31 January 2023

(2.02 - 2.21 pm)

Meeting held: Committee Room, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH. This meeting was also streamed live on YouTube.

Present:

Mayor J Driscoll (Chair)

Councillors C Johnson, N Kemp, K Kilgour, G Sanderson and R Wearmouth, Dame Mayor N Redfearn and Ms L Winskell OBE

52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received from members.

53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Whilst there were no declarations of interest, Ms L Winskell informed the Cabinet that she had recently been appointed as a Commissioner for the Port of Blyth; and this new role did not conflict with any items of business on the agenda for today's meeting.

54 ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor, on behalf of the Cabinet, congratulated Dame Norma Redfearn, the Elected Mayor of North Tyneside Council, for receiving the honour. Dame Mayor Redfearn thanked everyone for their support.

The Mayor, on behalf of the North of Tyne Combined Authority and the Cabinet, congratulated everyone on the signing of the new Devolution Deal for the wider region and the commencement of public consultation. Comments were also made on the substantial amount of work undertaken to achieve this progress; the significant benefits of the new Devolution Deal for the region; and the recognition that this Deal would build on the work that was already being undertaken by the North of Tyne Combined Authority.

Members welcomed the progress made on the new Devolution Deal and the opportunities it would bring to the region; and emphasised the importance of continuing the joint working across the region and cross-sector collaboration.

55 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 November 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

56 **INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE AND FUNDING APPROVALS**

Submitted: A report of the Chief Economist (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

It was noted that consideration of the Brownfield Housing Scheme at Strawberry Place should be deferred to allow further work to be carried out on this proposal.

The Cabinet considered the report, which provided an update on progress with the North of Tyne Investment Programme and sought associated approvals. The report was introduced by Councillor C Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Investment and Resources.

The Cabinet welcomed the report. Amongst the comments made during the ensuing discussion, were the following:

- The Combined Authority's focus on job creation and the results achieved;
- The importance of supporting business start-ups and growth and retaining business in the region;
- With regard to the work to support small businesses, the welcome investment into this area of work and the importance of giving priority to building upon the existing strengths, knowledge and collaboration, and sharing best practice, specifically with regard to the work of the Local Enterprise Partnership with partners.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The progress to date on the Investment Fund, achievement of key milestones and ongoing project development work, particularly in respect of the creation of new jobs for residents as a direct result of the NTCA investments, be noted;
- ii. Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to make final approvals and associated decisions relating to implementation in accordance with NTCA procedures for the following projects: £900,000 for the "Finance ecosystem coordination" project; £384,000 for the Brownfield Housing Scheme at The Esplanade, Whitley Bay; £800,000 for SME decarbonisation; and £147,000 for Community Partnerships;
- iii. Consideration of the Brownfield Housing Scheme at Strawberry Place be deferred; and

- iv. The Government's approval of the NTCA's UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan be noted; and the Director of Finance, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members, be authorised to allocate projects to the UKSPF programme where appropriate.

57 **NTCA 2023-2027 BUDGET PROPOSALS**

(a) **NTCA 2023-2027 Budget Proposals**

Submitted: A report of the Director of Finance (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which sought approval for the proposed budget for the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) for 2023/24 and the medium-term financial plan for the period 2024/25 to 2026/27.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The budget proposals for 2023-24 in respect of the following be agreed:
 - 1) Corporate Budget for 2023/24 as set out in section 3
 - 2) Investment Fund as set out in section 4
 - 3) Adult Education Budget as set out in section 5
 - 4) Brownfield Land Programme Budget as set out in section 6
 - 5) UKSFP Programme budget as set out in section 7
 - 6) Rural England Prosperity fund section 8
 - 7) North East Create Growth Programme as set out in section 9
- ii. The Cabinet noted that the Tyne and Wear levies would be issued on the 15 February 2023 preceding the commencement of the financial year in respect of which they were to be issued, in line with the Transport Levying Bodies Regulation;
- iii. The reserves set out in section 12 of the report be held. The Cabinet noted that the Director of Finance continued to keep the level of resources under review as the Authority developed and new information became available about the financial risks facing authority arrangements for managing risks;
- iv. The North East LEP Accountable Body Budget, section 13 of the report be noted;
- v. The Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24 be approved; and
- vi. The comments made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, set out in section 14 of the report, be noted.

(b) **2022/23 Indicative Outturn and 2023/24 Indicative Budget Proposals for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership and Invest North East England**

Submitted: A report of the Director of Finance (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet noted the contents of the report and in doing so noted the update on the 2022/23 North East LEP Revenue Budget and the 2022/23 Invest North East England Revenue Budget and noted the indicative estimate for the 2023/24 Revenue Budget for both the North East LEP and Invest North East England.

58 **2022/23 Q3 NTCA BUDGET MONITOR REPORT**

Submitted: A report of the Director of Finance (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the third quarter monitoring report on the 2022/23 financial position. The report brought together the forecast financial position for the Corporate Budget, Investment Fund, Brownfield Housing Fund and the Adult Education Budget and provided an indication of the potential position of the Combined Authority on 31 March 2023. The report also set out the potential position on the reserves at the year end.

RESOLVED – That the forecast budget monitoring position for the Combined Authority as set out in paragraphs 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 of the report and the reserves position in 1.6 of the report be noted.

59 **NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP FUNDING DECISIONS UPDATE**

Submitted: A report of the Chief Executive of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Cabinet considered the report which provided an update on the work and decisions of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP).

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

60 **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 21 March 2023 at 4.30pm.

61 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There was no exclusion of press and public.

62 **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Confidential Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 November 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

63 **NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP FUNDING DECISIONS UPDATE - APPENDICES A, B AND C**

Submitted: The confidential appendices A, B and C for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership – Funding Decisions Update report, agenda item 8 (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Noted.

This page is intentionally left blank



Title: NTCA Annual Report
Report of: Director of Policy and Performance
Portfolio: All

Report Summary

The NTCA produces an Annual Report to set out the Authority's achievements and the work of the Mayor and Cabinet over the last year. The report 'Devolution Delivers' includes information on how NTCA is delivering its Vision through the three cross-cutting themes of Net Zero Transition, Inclusive Economy and Innovation in Recovery and across all the Delivery Themes. In addition, there are also annual updates from the Inclusive Economy Board, the Housing and Land Board and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Group.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to endorse *Devolution Delivers*, the NTCA annual report, and note the work and support of the Inclusive Economy Board, the Housing and Land Board and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Group.

A. Context

1. Devolution Delivers

- 1.1 The 2022-23 Corporate Plan set out the North of Tyne vision which is of a dynamic and more inclusive economy, one that brings together people and opportunities to create vibrant communities and a high quality of life, narrowing inequalities and ensuring that all residents have a stake in our region's future.
- 1.2 This is the third Annual Report and is presented to Cabinet to record the work of NTCA in creating and safeguarding jobs, working with communities on climate change and tackling poverty and showcasing 'good' jobs through the Good Work Pledge and supporting local businesses to thrive. NTCA is delivering on devolution, providing skills and education opportunities, and developing work on tackling inequality in attainment and poverty.
- 1.3 The report has been designed to be a quick read to enable residents to see the impact of NTCA clearly; a signpost to the more in-depth information that is available on the website through our press releases or cabinet reports.
- 1.4 Stories have been chosen to show the range and impact of NTCA. One relating to providing skills and training to anyone over the age of 18 in the basics of working in film/TV production as part of a scheme to make more programmes and create new jobs in the north east; the second to illustrate the impact of NTCA's Child Poverty Prevention programme; with the third relating to an investment in a North Tyneside company, C&D Access, to enable it to provide safety training and drone inspection services to the Dogger Bank Wind Farm.
- 1.5 Other stories demonstrate the different types of investment from the award from the North of Tyne Growth Fund for Cramlington based Sweet Dreams to the smaller North of Tyne Crowdfund award to Byker's Recyke y'bike. There is also information on some of the events from the year; including the Rugby League World Cup and the Hadrian's Wall 1900 Festival.
- 1.6 The report demonstrates that NTCA adds value through strong collaboration with its local authority partners, universities, businesses, the North East LEP and the voluntary and community sector, one example of which was the first NTCA Equalities Assembly which took place in 2022.

1.7 Further information on projects delivered are included in the final pages to showcase quickly and succinctly the work and successes of NTCA in 2022 with statistics and information on the projects demonstrating the opportunities for all.

2. Working in partnership

2.1 NTCA works collaboratively and in partnership with many organisations across the region. It has two advisory bodies, the Inclusive Economy Board and the Housing and Land Board, both Chaired by NTCA Cabinet members. NTCA also has a Mayoral Ambassador for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector who Chairs a VCSE stakeholder group.

2.2 The work of these Boards and group is an important part of how NTCA listens to and serves the people of the region and their annual updates are provided as appendices to this report.

B. Impact on NTCA Objectives

1. The Annual Report is a reflective document which show how the NTCA has worked to reflect and be consistent with the priorities set out by the Mayor and Cabinet.

C. Key risks

1. There are no specific risks relating to the recommendations in this report.

D. Financial and other resources implications

1. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

E. Legal implications

1. There are no direct implications arising directly from this report

F. Equalities implications

1. NTCA is mindful of its duty under the Public Sector Equality Duty and through its work will continue to promote policies and decision making which eliminates discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advances equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and fosters good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and also considers the implications for people from different socio-economic backgrounds/low pay as a protected characteristic. NTCA set its Equalities Objectives at the beginning of this municipal year, and these are considered in the context of its work. In 2022 it also held its first Equalities Assembly.

G. Inclusive Economy and Wellbeing implications

1. There are no direct inclusive economy implications arising in the report itself, however as a reflective document it showcases NTCA's inclusive economy ambitions and the five characteristics of an inclusive economy: participation; equity; growth; stability and sustainability. 2022 is the first year of NTCA's Wellbeing Framework which has ten social, economic, environmental, and democratic outcomes to improve the wellbeing of everyone living in the North of Tyne now and in the future and these ambitions are reflected in the report.

H. Climate Change implications

1. The North of Tyne Combined Authority and all three constituent Local Authorities have declared a Climate Emergency; the impact of the NTCA's decisions on climate is taken into account and its work in this area is reflected in the Annual Report.

I. Consultation and engagement

1. The Mayor, Cabinet and the whole NTCA team have been involved in the formulation of the Annual Report. The NTCA is a collaborative and supportive team and the Annual Report and the Corporate Plan are aligned with the internal work programme, targets and spend so each team can see how their individual effort contributes to the whole.

J. Appendices

- Appendix 1 Devolution Delivers NTCA Annual report (to follow)
- Appendix 1a Inclusive Economy Board update
- Appendix 1b Housing and Land Board update
- Appendix 1c VCSE Stakeholder Engagement Group

K. Background papers

Working Together: NTCA Corporate Plan

L. Contact officer(s)

Ruth Redfern, Director of Policy and Performance
ruth.redfern@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

Stuart Tarbuck, Head of Communications, Engagement and Organisational Development
Stuart.Tarbuck@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

M. Glossary

NTCA North of Tyne Combined Authority
VCSE Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Group

This page is intentionally left blank

**Inclusive Economy Board
Annual Report 2022/23**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this briefing is to provide an update for the Annual Report 2022/23 on the work of the Inclusive Economy Board, outlining the achievements and progress from the past twelve months.

“2022 marks another important year for NTCA’s Inclusive Economy Board. My thanks to members and the Chair for helping us to shape and deliver a programme of work focussed on creating a more inclusive economy by narrowing inequalities and ensuring that all residents have a stake in our region’s future”.

Cllr Karen Kilgour
Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Skills
Vice Chair of the Inclusive Economy Board.

2. Background

NTCA’s Inclusive Economy Board is a unique feature of our Devolution Deal: independently chaired it is multi-sector and cross-area supporting Cabinet to bring our ambitions for a Zero Poverty, Zero Carbon future to life. The Inclusive Economy Board advises Cabinet on how to better integrate and strengthen education, skills and employment interventions in order to improve local education and employment outcomes for North of Tyne residents. It encourages NTCA to think creatively about the widest implication of a more inclusive economy – whether through digital inclusion, rural opportunities and access or wellbeing. This is underpinned by an ongoing commitment to understand and respond to some of the widening inequalities caused by the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis.

We continue to be grateful to serving members from across business, civil society, education, academia and Government Departments including the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing (DLUCH). The Board was pleased to welcome Councillor Hannah Johnson, North Tyneside Cabinet Member responsible for Inclusion, Employment and Skills as well as Rhiannon Bearne, Policy and Representation Director at the North East England Chamber of Commerce.

3. Achievements

The Inclusive Economy Board met four times during this period focussing their efforts on key areas of work including:

- helping to shape NTCA’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan maximising opportunities to further strengthen education, skills and employment interventions towards a more inclusive economy;
- supporting and monitoring progress against NTCA’s new Employability Strategy, providing an opportunity for NTCA and our partners to develop a cohesive approach to employment support across the North of Tyne;

- taking strategic ownership over the implementation of the Wellbeing Framework for the North of Tyne with the goal of improving social, economic, environmental and democratic outcomes for everyone living in the region;
- influencing programmes that seek to harness digital technology to support our inclusive economy ambitions via digital connectivity and digital inclusion initiatives;
- contributing to the North of Tyne Local Skills Improvement Plans developed by the North East England Chamber of Commerce;
- sharing their thoughts on the opportunities that the new North East devolution deal presents to build an even more inclusive economy across a wider geography.

4. Next Steps

The first meeting of 2023/24 will provide an opportunity for the Board to explore how NTCA's UKSPF investment is helping to deliver a more inclusive economy that works for all our people and places across the North of Tyne.

Housing and Land Board Annual Report 2022/23

1. Purpose

The purpose of this briefing is to provide an update for the Annual Report 2022/23 on the work of the Housing and Land Board, outlining the achievements and progress from the past twelve months.

2. Background

The remit of the Housing and Land Board is to oversee a strategic approach to the delivery of more and better homes across the North of Tyne from a baseline of 1,800 net new homes a year to 3,000 net new homes a year by 2032. The Board does this by acting as a strategic and advisory sounding board that works for the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) collaboratively with our partners to oversee an integrated housing pipeline, and to advance work on place-based policy and delivery.

Membership of the Board is drawn from the Local Authorities, the Combined Authority and Homes England as well as a wide cross-section of the housing sector, including – but not limited to - registered providers, private developers, institutional investors, and organisations representing residential landlords.

The Board is led by Dame Mayor Norma Redfearn, portfolio holder for housing and land at the NTCA, with strategic input from the wider NTCA Cabinet. We are fortunate that Duncan Sutherland, Vice Chair of Homes England, assists with the drive and focus of the Board thus helping to cement a strong working relationship with Homes England.

The work of the Board has helped informed the Housing & Land priorities in the new devolution deal and provides a strong platform to develop this portfolio of work to continue to benefit our communities.

3. Achievements

Over the past year, the Board has maintained a consistent focus on matters relating to:

- housing policy and research,
- housing delivery,
- strategic economic corridors – Northumberland Line and the River Tyne, and,
- place based interventions in our High Streets.

The following paragraphs outline this in further detail:

3.1. Policy and research focus

In terms of housing policy and research, the Board has taken a strong interest in a number of areas over the last year including housing affordability, health and growth, community led housing and housing retrofit.

Housing Affordability – work was commissioned to provide an assessment of housing affordability across the North of Tyne. This found that housing affordability ratios were higher than average in some areas, particularly rural, coastal communities as well as key neighbourhoods in Newcastle. The research recommended that the North of Tyne should consider developing criteria to inform future funding programmes to increase the delivery of affordable housing as well as draw upon existing best practice within the North of Tyne and across the country to develop new models of delivery.

Health & Growth Plan - In collaboration with a wide range of partners work has begun on a Health & Inclusive Growth investment Plan. It will build on existing strategic priorities for the area, including the NTCA infrastructure vision statement, the wellbeing framework and engagement with Sir Michael Marmot. The aim of the plan is to unlock private sector investment over the next 10 years for health, regeneration and low carbon developments that create positive and measurable impact for health, wellbeing & inclusive growth. Schemes are currently being identified that will meet the objectives of the plan alongside the development of an impact and monitoring framework.

Community Led Housing – A task group comprising of Housing & Land Board representatives has been set up to focus on Community Led Housing. Communities CAN, who are the umbrella organisation in the North East for Community Led Housing, will develop a pipeline of schemes, explore new models of delivery and continue to support organisations with technical and capacity expertise who are interested in this housing delivery model.

Energy Retrofit – To develop investible retrofit propositions, The Energy Savings Trust have been appointed to work with Local Authorities, Registered Providers and Communities to identify priority projects and undertake technical work.

The work will include:

- Commissioning financial and economic modelling to identify scalable innovative approaches and cost-effective funding options
- Developing a business model, including resource requirements for a one-stop-shop energy advice centre to build residential demand, provide trusted advice and coordination functions
- Ensuring intelligence from this project informs future skills and business support provision for the sector

3.2. Brownfield Housing Fund

The Board has taken a keen interest in the delivery of the £31.8 million Brownfield Housing Fund (BHF). To date £19.8 million of Brownfield Housing Funding has been approved which will unlock 1,805 homes. Since the last Annual Report, the following schemes have been approved - Scotswood The Rise Phases 3, 5 and 5A, Moorside, Ellington Colliery Phases 3 & 4 and The Esplanade. Lyndon Walk is the next scheme that will be recommended for approval at Investment Panel in March.

Four schemes are currently being appraised which would result in the allocation of £11.2 million of BHF, unlocking up to 595 homes.

The Board has helped to shape the development of the programme by providing their expertise and support which will help the Combined Authority successfully deliver the Brownfield Housing Fund. An interim evaluation of the programme is underway and the outcomes of this will be reported to the Board later this year.

3.3. Partnership Working with Homes England

Through our Memorandum of Understanding we continue to work closely with Homes England and our Local Authority partners to develop a joint pipeline of housing sites and to identify what investment is required to unlock their development. Both organisations have supported schemes through market assessments, infrastructure plans, design and site investigation work for key schemes. Homes England are now providing six monthly data and insights updates to the Housing & Land Board to support the development of programmes and priorities.

In relation to Strategic Sites, we are working in partnership with Homes England and Newcastle Council to develop a common vision and approach to landowner engagement for Forth Yards. We are also working with Homes England to explore how we can support Newcastle University's ambitions for the Centre of Ageing and Vitality.

3.4. Economic Corridors

The Northumberland Line Economic Corridor presents significant potential to unlock both economic and housing growth. The Housing and Land Board were presented with an update on the £10 million investment plan that has been approved by Cabinet.

The programme will improve the stations, enhance last mile connectivity, accelerate the growth of key sectors as well as support residents to access employment opportunities. The focus of activity to be delivered this year includes:

- Art installations in each of the stations
- Reconfiguration of Newcastle Central Station to open up the west of the station linking to Forth Yards
- Digital Infrastructure
- Last Mile connectivity and waggonways network mapping and improvements
- Masterplanning of Manors

The Tyne Taskforce is providing stronger cross-sector collaboration, partnership working with businesses, the Port of Tyne and our neighbouring authorities of Gateshead and South Tyneside, whilst supporting region-wide plans for economic recovery and connectivity. The Tyne Taskforce was a case study in North of Tyne's Quality Assurance Report and highlighted the positive work that is being undertaken in partnership. Over the last year the Taskforce has focused on addressing key barriers for investment on the Tyne including business cases to support investment in infrastructure, sites and premises.

The Taskforce is also looking at what skills are needed to support the growth of the offshore sector and through a pilot scheme, 12 residents accessed jobs as welders. The aim is to roll out this successful model out more widely.

Tyne Powered has been developed as a brand to promote the Tyne at trade shows and via social media. A number of offshore energy trade shows have been identified for 2023/24 where the Tyne will be promoted to potential inward investors.

3.5 High Streets

Our High Streets and Towns Innovation Programme over the last year has started to take shape and is now delivering activity in Wallsend, Ashington and the Inner East of Newcastle. Significant consultation has taken place with businesses and residents to ensure that the investment in the high streets meet their needs.

Support to businesses has started in each area ranging from 1:1 tailored support, shop front improvement grants, grants to bring empty properties back into use and an innovative Green Street pilot in the Inner East of Newcastle which encourages businesses to look at all aspects of their trading to maximise their environmental impact.

Designs and spatial plans are underway to improve the quality of place and connectivity which will be implemented this year. Schemes include improving linkages from the town centre to the new station in Ashington and between Wallsend Town Centre and the World Heritage Site in Segedunum.

A programme of cultural events is also being planned in each High Street for the coming year which will help to attract visitors and create a vibrant atmosphere.

All of the High Street schemes have embraced the following three pillars of the programme, strong strategic leadership, developing and testing new delivering models and looking at how the North of Tyne's funding can stimulate long term investment to bring about lasting change.

We have developed a strong partnership with Power to Change which will help embed social uses and investment across our High Streets Programme.

4. Next Steps

Over the next year, the Board will continue to focus on delivery: ensuring that priorities identified are progressing toward development and that the working relationship we have outlined continues to add value. The Board's guidance and insight will remain important to this delivery, helping the work to progress smoothly.

We will also continue to focus on embedding our wider inclusive economy, low carbon and wellbeing objectives in our Place Based Programmes to ensure they support the economic objectives of the area.

VCSE Stakeholder Engagement Group Annual Report 2022/23

1. Purpose

The purpose of this briefing is to provide an update for the Annual Report 2022/23 on the work of the VCSE (voluntary, community and social enterprise) sector Stakeholder Engagement Group, outlining the achievements and progress from the past twelve months.

2. Background

The VCSE Stakeholder Engagement Group was established in 2019 and formalised in 2020. It is chaired by the Mayoral Ambassador for the VCSE sector. The Group brings together Chief Executive Officers from the local infrastructure bodies for the voluntary sector, as well as Voluntary Organisations Network North East (VONNE) and Volunteer Centre Newcastle, working in partnership with lead officers from our three constituent authorities.

The group meets quarterly and aims to work together to build an inclusive economy, as set out in its Terms of Reference. Its work is underpinned by our VCSE Accord, approved by Delegated Decision in March 2020. The Group is passionate about bringing together people and opportunities to build thriving, vibrant communities. It does this by advising NTCA Cabinet on the wealth, wellbeing and social inequalities in North of Tyne communities. It provides specific expertise in co-design and co-production, helping to ensure the voices of all residents inform NTCA's work and ambitions.

There have been some significant changes to the membership of the group during this reporting period:

- Robin Fry stepped down as Mayoral Ambassador for the VCSE sector in September 2022 ahead of leaving his role as CEO at VODA. Lisa Goodwin MBE, Chief Executive at Connected Voice, has since taken on the Ambassador role.
- Anya Lawrence joined the group as the new VCS Liaison Manager for North Tyneside Council, taking over from Felicity Shoemith.
- Vicky Smith joined the group as the new CEO at VODA.
- Caroline Rogan joined the group as the new CEO at Northumberland CVA, taking over from Anne Lyall
- Karen Watson joined the group on behalf of Volunteer Centre Newcastle
- Abi Conway joined the group as CEO of Citizens Advice Northumberland

We would like to extend our thanks to all new, existing and departing members of the group.

3. Achievements

During this reporting period the group agreed to focus their attention on three key areas.

3.1 Understanding and supporting the capacity of the VCSE sector to support our communities

The Stakeholder Group produced an infographic to help build a shared understanding of the breadth and diversity VCSE sector. This snapshot shows the sector as a patchwork of primarily small organisations with an annual income of under £250,000 built on the work of unpaid volunteers whose contribution is valued at over £44 million. This has helped to shape NTCA's UKSPF Investment Plan.

Members of the Stakeholder group identified competing for multiple pots of funding as a significant drain on the capacity of VCSE sector organisations. NTCA has begun conversations with local and national funders to explore mechanisms to collaboratively fund VCSE sector activity.

3.2 Developing the North of Tyne as an area of excellence in volunteering

We know that volunteering offers significant social and economic benefits and has the potential to create stronger, more prosperous and resilient communities. The Stakeholder Group received a presentation from the North of Tyne Volunteering Partnership following their consultation with over 150 local organisations towards a vision of developing the North of Tyne as an area of volunteering excellence. This has helped to shape our UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Investment Plan.

3.3 Ensuring the VCSE sector can play a full role in shaping and delivering NTCA's UKSPF Investment Plan

The contribution of members of the Stakeholder Group, and the wider VCSE sector, has been critical to the development of our UKSPF Investment Plan which includes significant investment in volunteering and social action as well as investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups. Members of the group attended multiple external consultation events as well as receiving regular reports from UKSPF leads within NTCA.

In addition to the work outlined above the Mayoral Ambassador for the VCSE sector has continued to embed the North of Tyne VCSE voice and views across NTCA's work by contributing to meeting and events including:

- NTCA Cabinet meetings
- NTCA Inclusive Economy Board meetings
- A health inequalities roundtable attended by Professor Sir Michael Marmot
- A food poverty roundtable chaired by Mayor Jamie Driscoll

4. Next Steps

Communities across the North of Tyne continue to face a range of socioeconomic challenges, which in many cases have accelerated and deepened because of the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. Our VCSE sector plays a crucial role in supporting the recovery and renewal of our communities and places both as a significant contributor to the economy and a provider of essential services. However, we know that the sector is facing significant challenges relating to increased costs at the same time as increasing demand. The VCSE Stakeholder Group is committed to pursuing opportunities to build capacity and sustainability within the sector so it can continue to be a catalyst for an inclusive economy.



Title: Education Improvement and Child Poverty Prevention
Report of: Head of Public Sector Innovation
Portfolio: Education, Inclusion and Skills

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet members on the progress of the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) Child Poverty Prevention and Education Improvement pilot programmes and to seek Cabinet approval to support continuation of both programmes of work.

Recommendations

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note progress of the Education Improvement Programme and Child Poverty Prevention Programme for the North of Tyne.
2. Approve continuation of both programmes of work as follows:
 - a) Approve funding of £1,100,000 for continuation of NTCA Education Improvement Programme, with authority delegated to Chief Executive for implementation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.
 - b) Approve funding of £1,360,000 for continuation of NTCA Child Poverty Prevention Programme, with authority delegated to Chief Executive for implementation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.
 - c) Delegate authority to Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer to sign off amendments to the programmes if required once delivery has commenced.

A. Context

1. Introduction

- 1.1 North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) Cabinet have made a commitment to address historic educational inequity faced by school pupils in our region, and to take steps to prevent both the symptoms and causes of child poverty.
- 1.2 There remains a significant educational achievement gap in our area, with pupils in the North of Tyne likely to underperform in comparison to their peers elsewhere in the country¹. This issue is exacerbated for children and young people from a disadvantaged background and has long-term impact². Children in the North-East have also been affected by education disruption during and following COVID-19.
- 1.3 In 2022, the North East overtook London as the region with the highest proportion of children living in both absolute and relative poverty. Almost two out of five children in the North East (38%) are living in poverty³. Over 70% of children living poverty in the North East are in households with at least one adult in work⁴.

¹ Department for Education, Key Stage 4 performance statistics, <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/key-stage-4-performance-revised>

² [The long\(er\)-term impact of long-term disadvantage at school - FFT Education Datalab](#)

³ [Local-child-poverty-indicators-report-2022_FINAL.pdf \(endchildpoverty.org.uk\)](#)

⁴ [Local-child-poverty-indicators-report-2022_FINAL.pdf \(endchildpoverty.org.uk\)](#)

2. Education Improvement

- 2.1 In June 2020, Cabinet approved a Joint School Improvement Strategy (as outlined in the North of Tyne Devolution Deal) which agreed a set of shared priorities and principles written in partnership with education leads in each of our constituent authorities, building on wide stakeholder engagement with schools, teaching unions and other sector professionals. To support the delivery of these priorities, in September 2021, Cabinet approved funding to pilot an Education Improvement Programme made up of five objectives: Support education recovery of North of Tyne pupils most affected by COVID-19; support development of teachers and school leaders; support schools in challenging contexts; improve transition into and between schools; and improve career pathways for North of Tyne pupils.
- 2.2 Programme delivery began in April 2022 and has so far directly supported 178 schools, 351 teachers/leaders and ultimately 16,520 pupils. Progress against each objective is detailed in Appendix A.
- 2.3 It is proposed that NTCA capitalise on the convening power demonstrated in this programme to further support schools, leaders, teachers and the wider education system to share best practice. It is also proposed that we empower young people across the North of Tyne to feed into development of future programmes at NTCA, better listening to the voice of young people through co-production.
- 2.4 Ongoing conversations with the Department for Education have not yet resulted in a financial support package from the centre to extend our work. Priorities and ambitions as set out in the North of Tyne Education Challenge are demonstrably being addressed through this work programme and are included in the North East Mayoral Combined Authority devolution deal. Work with the Department for Education on this agenda continues.
- 2.5 The Education Improvement Programme has generated positive attention beyond our region, cited as best practice by educational professionals.⁵

3. Child Poverty Prevention

- 3.1 In June 2021, Cabinet approved funding to develop and deliver a Child Poverty Prevention pilot to address worsening symptoms and causes of child poverty. Following regional and national stakeholder engagement, a programme of three pillars was developed: poverty interventions in schools; welfare at the school gate; and working with employers to address in-work poverty.
- 3.2 Fundamental to mobilisation and delivery has been close partnership working with constituent authority officers and VCS organisations; allowing regular opportunities to share insights, develop ideas, co-produce solutions and map resources.
- 3.3 Programme delivery began in April 2022 and has so far directly supported 86 schools, 37 employers, 450 families and 500 pupils. The programme is on track to support 90 schools, directly supporting at least 1600 pupils and indirectly helping an additional 5000 pupils and families by the end of this academic year. Progress against each objective is detailed in Appendix A.
- 3.4 The Child Poverty Prevention programme is currently cited as best practice by policy experts in this field.⁶

4. Overall impact so far

- 4.1 Inequity in academic outcomes persist, but our pilot Education Improvement Programme is reaching those who need our support and is welcomed across the education system.
- 4.2 While child poverty will not be eradicated through our work, we can see that the pilot Child Poverty Prevention programme is supporting children, families, schools and employers and is starting to make a real difference to those who need it most.

⁵ Appendix A

⁶ Appendix A

- 4.3 Through the design and delivery of both the Child Poverty Prevention Programme and the Education Improvement Programme, partners are convening and collaborating to reduce inequalities for children and young people, proactively sharing insights, beginning to co-produce solutions and map resources to drive positive change.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 A full evaluation for both programmes will take place after delivery of this pilot phase.
- 5.2 Subject to Cabinet approval, a business case for both programmes will be developed, appraised and taken to NTCA's Investment Panel for consideration.

B. Impact on NTCA Objectives

NTCA's Vision is of a 'dynamic and more inclusive economy...[which narrows] inequalities'⁷. We are committed to giving everyone the opportunity to thrive – to achieve a fair wage, and access good jobs, and by working in partnership with business, civil society and our residents to achieve this. Our Inclusive Economy Policy Statement reinforces this by committing NTCA to taking a people-focused approach to support every individual to succeed⁸.

C. Key risks

School engagement remains essential to the success of these programmes of work. We have seen early progress in the development of strong relationships with school leaders and stakeholder groups across the region, continued focus from NTCA officers on relationship-building and active participation in school networks, as well as continued co-design of the work will continue to mitigate the risk posed by lack of school engagement in this work.

D. Financial and other resources implications

The tables below outlines proposed financial implications for continuation of the Education Improvement and Child Poverty Prevention programmes.

Education Improvement	Pilot period	Proposed academic year 2023/24	Ongoing commitment
Scope	Currently supporting over 170 schools across 5 key objectives.	Build on work with existing schools to deepen engagement and work with at least 50 new schools.	New devolution deal commits a North East Mayoral Combined Authority to build on NTCA's Education Improvement pilot.
Budget	£970,000	£1,110,000	

⁷ Home of Ambition: The Vision for the North of Tyne Combined Authority, November 2018, p3

⁸ Inclusive Economy Policy Statement, North of Tyne Combined Authority, December 2018, p4

Child Poverty Prevention	Pilot period	Proposed academic year 2023/24	Ongoing commitment
Scope	Supporting 90 schools and 30 employers in the effort to tackle the causes and symptoms of child poverty	Build on work with existing schools and employers to deepen engagement and work with 30 additional schools and a further 15 employers.	New devolution deal commits a North East Mayoral Combined Authority to continue and expand on NTCA's Child Poverty Prevention Pilot.
Budget	£887,500	£1,360,000	

E. Legal implications

1. The comments of the Monitoring Officer have been incorporated in this report.

F. Equalities implications

1. NTCA follows the Public Sector Equality duty and this report has due regard to the need to achieve the objectives set out under s149 of the Equality Act 2010.
2. The Education Improvement and Child Poverty Prevention Programmes will have specific positive impacts for groups experiencing protected characteristics, under the terms of the Equality Act 2010. Child poverty is a characteristic of socio-economic disadvantage and is highly correlated with single parent status, for example. Given the relationship between child poverty and in-work poverty, the Child Poverty Prevention Programme for the North of Tyne will specifically deliver the aims of the 2010 Equality Act: to advance equality of opportunity for all, especially for residents experiencing low pay/socio-economic disadvantage. An equalities impact assessment has been produced for this programme of work.

G. Inclusive Economy and Wellbeing implications

1. Both programmes will continue to develop interventions early, supporting long-term local economic resilience. This will ultimately enable more young people to move into the good jobs our wider Education, Skills and Inclusion portfolio will provide.
2. Education Improvement will support the development of a future inclusive economy, addressing critical barriers early to reduce achievement gaps and support more of our young people to thrive in our school system and be better prepared for a successful life beyond it.
3. The Child Poverty Prevention will support the development of an inclusive economy by tackling inequality and develop a better understanding of interventions which can target poorer families and children, supporting residents towards more productive futures.

H. Climate Change implications

1. There are no direct climate change implications for this report

I. Consultation and engagement

1. Throughout delivery of the pilot phases of NTCA's Child Poverty Prevention and Education Improvement Programmes, consultation has taken place with officers at constituent authorities, alongside regional and national education and poverty and inclusion specialists and academics. This includes the North East Child Poverty Commission, Child Poverty Action Group and Children North East, LocalEd.

2. Steering groups have been used to consult on specific policy areas, working with experts locally and nationally alongside stakeholders including teachers, school leaders, VCSE representatives and local authority representatives.
3. Through evaluation of the pilot phases of these programmes, engagement with schools, parent/carers and pupils will provide insight to support the design of any future phases of work.

J. Appendices

Appendix A: Pilot programme progress

K. Background papers

Child Poverty Prevention Programme progress report (February 2023)
Education Improvement Programme progress report (February 2023)
Joint School Improvement Strategy
NTCA Wellbeing Framework
NTCA Equalities Impact Assessment Child Poverty Prevention Programme 2023
NTCA Equalities Impact Assessment Education Improvement Programme 2023

L. Contact officer(s)

Adrian Dougherty
Head of Public Sector Innovation
Adrian.dougherty@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

Joanna Unthank
Senior Programme Manager, Child Poverty Prevention
Joanna.unthank@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

Andrew Garrad
Senior Programme Manager, Education Improvement
Andrew.garrad@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

M. Glossary

NTCA North of Tyne Combined Authority

Appendix A: Pilot programme progress

1. Education Improvement Programme Progress

a. Support education recovery of North of Tyne pupils most affected by COVID-19

12 schools have developed bespoke education recovery projects to the benefit of 2,000 children most in need. Priorities addressed include oracy and literacy, re-engaging whole school communities, mental health, and outdoor learning. A School Mental Health Award has also been launched as part of this objective with 60 schools having signed up since January 2023.

b. Support development of teachers and school leaders

School leaders from 30 schools across North of Tyne are participating in a 'Linking Leaders' programme, developed and delivered in partnership with constituent local authorities and Newcastle Research School. A further 36 experienced Headteachers, Multi Academy Trust leaders and local authority school improvement partners are being supported to achieve professional accreditation through the Association of Education Advisers.

c. Better supporting schools in challenging contexts and improving transition into and between schools

Literacy leaders across 14 schools are currently being supported to help over 3,000 of our most disadvantaged pupils. 117 settings serving disadvantaged communities have been given access to an early literacy development programme. This will improve transition into school for over 12,000 children. 20 schools are engaging in a project to support better transition of pupils between Key Stages 3 & 4. An event to share best practice in transition is scheduled for the end of this academic year.

d. Improving career pathways for North of Tyne pupils

Support is being provided to secondary and middle school curriculum leaders and teachers across North of the Tyne to engage effectively with local employers, empower young people at Key Stage 3 with the knowledge and understanding to make informed decisions including progression to level 3 STEM subjects. The project is working intensively with 10 schools across North of Tyne, directly benefiting over 1,100 pupils.

e. The Education Improvement Programme has generated positive attention nationally, cited as best practice by educational professionals

"Our research has showed the importance of an effective middle tier acting across the education system to bring key partners together to address the challenge of educational inequalities. The work of North Tyne Combined Authority in forging links with their local authorities is charting the way for other combined authorities."

Jonathan Crossley-Holland - LocalEd

2. Child Poverty Prevention Programme Progress

a. Pillar 1 'Poverty Interventions in schools'

86 North of Tyne schools across all phases are now participating in the programme against a target of 90. Each school has chosen from a suite of poverty interventions through pillar 1 of the programme, whilst 33 of these schools also have access to dedicated welfare rights advice through pillar 2 of the programme.

By the end of July 2023, the programme will have delivered poverty audits and training in 16 schools, supported the review and implementation of poverty-sensitive uniform policies in 2 schools, family learning sessions in 34 schools, afterschool clubs in 22 schools and grant funded bespoke work to support children and young people experiencing financial hardship in 12 schools.

b. Pillar 2, 'welfare support through the school gate'

Pillar 2 is operational in 33 schools to support families to better support themselves, by giving access to welfare guidance in schools. To date this work has supported more than 450 families with issues relating to benefits, debt, energy costs, and food insecurity. This work has made a significant difference to hundreds of families in North of Tyne.

c. Pillar 3 'working with employers to tackle child poverty'

This pillar seeks to work with employers to develop poverty reduction strategies in their workplace, supporting employees beyond pay and benefits. A structured framework of over 50 ways employers can support employees beyond pay and benefits has been developed, leading the way regionally and nationally on ways in which employers can step up to support staff. Over 30 North of Tyne employers have attended workshops on the stark realities of in-work poverty and the in-work benefits system. The first 12 of 30 employers have developed bespoke poverty-reduction strategies to benefit employees based on a unique organisational audit.

d. The Child Poverty Prevention programme is currently cited as best practice by policy experts in this field

"It is hugely important that the Combined Authority has not only recognised the wide-ranging impacts of poverty on children and young people growing up across the North of Tyne, but also that it has a vital role to play in preventing and reducing it – adding immense value and capacity to existing activity, including by bringing together a broad range of local partners in a way that wouldn't have happened without this pilot, to undertake innovative work that could and should be replicated elsewhere an example of good practice. The programme is not only having immediate, tangible / easily measurable benefits for many families across the area; providing this vital investment in children and young people now also supports the delivery of the Combined Authority's wider agenda in the medium to longer-term.

What is less easy (if not impossible) to quantify is the preventative nature of North of Tyne's work: for the family that didn't end up trapped in problem debt; the mum who won't now have a mental health crisis; the child who won't develop a long-term health condition because they didn't spend the whole of their childhood in a cold, damp home; and the parental relationships that didn't break down as a result of never-ending financial stress – because families were able to access the right advice and support, at the right time, through this pilot. The value of this is immeasurable, both for individual children and families and for the North of Tyne as a whole."

Amanda Bailey, Director - North East Child Poverty Commission

This page is intentionally left blank



Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on provision that has been delivered through the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) for the 6-month period from 1 August 2022 to 4 February 2023. It sets out the adult education opportunities that have been created for North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) residents during the first half of this academic year (AY) and outlines next steps in terms of managing AEB delivery for the remainder of this AY 2022-23.

The report also details the progress that has been made towards setting up a Post-16 Skills Flexible Procurement Framework to commission skills funding. This framework will enable NTCA to rapidly deploy funding to ensure there is a skills supply that is responsive to skills demand.

NTCA took control of the devolved Adult Education Budget on 1 August 2020. Since then, the government has devolved approximately £69m to the Combined Authority, enabling adult learning priorities to be determined at a local level and **providing over 77,000 enrolment opportunities to date**. Devolved AEB funding supports a diverse range of flexible education and skills provision and is delivering a more responsive, accessible adult skills offer for North of Tyne residents and employers.

Analysis of delivery data in AY 2022-23 for the 6-month period from 1 August 2022 to 4 February demonstrates that the devolved AEB continues to support delivery of [NTCA's Strategic Skills Plan](#) and the [NTCA Corporate Plan 2022-23](#).

Recommendations

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- i. Note the progress which has been made in terms of AEB delivery for the first half of the academic year (AY) 2022-23 and endorse the approach to managing AEB delivery for the remainder of this AY.
- ii. Note the progress in establishing the NTCA Post-16 Skills Flexible Procurement Framework.

A. Context

1 Background

- 1.1 NTCA's devolved AEB for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 is £23,586,795 plus an additional £1,969,315 for the delegated Level 3 Free Courses for Jobs offer. Bringing the total AEB for AY 2022-23 to £25,546,110.
- 1.2 A detailed list of NTCA's AEB providers and funding allocations for AY 2022-23 is included in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 1.3 The NTCA has successfully managed the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) for NTCA residents and employers since the beginning of August 2020. Since then, the government has devolved approximately £69m to the Combined Authority, enabling adult learning priorities to be determined at a local level and providing over 77,000 enrolment opportunities to date.

- 1.4 Devolution of the AEB has enabled NTCA to strengthen the strategic focus of skills provision across the Combined Authority area. We have built on our approach of creating close collaborations, bringing together employers, colleges, training providers, local commissioners and the VSCE sector to construct a skills offer which focuses on achieving outcomes directly linked to local labour market needs.
- 1.5 The COVID-19 pandemic, the current economic climate and cost of living crisis has meant that we have had to adapt to shifting priorities and needs across the region. NTCA have worked with AEB providers to align provision to these shifting priorities. We have made effective use of the flexibilities afforded by devolution in relation to funding rules, rates, and eligibility criteria to ensure the AEB funding can be targeted where it is needed most.

2 Review of AEB delivery data from 1 August 2022 to 4 February 2023

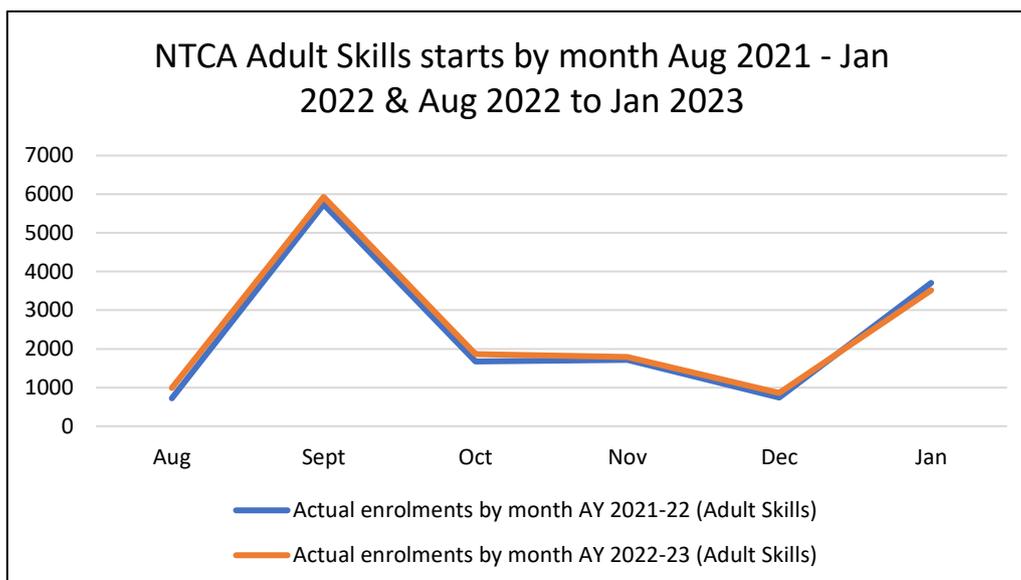
- 2.1 In the 6-month period from 1 August 2022 to 4 February 2023 over 19,000 enrolment opportunities have been delivered or are being undertaken. Table 1 illustrates the overall number of enrolments by Local Authority area and funding model.

Table 1

Enrolments by Local Authority	R06 - Feb 2023		
	AEB Adult Skills	Community Learning	Total
Newcastle	8627	2492	11119
North Tyneside	3041	733	3774
Northumberland	3429	682	4111
Total	15097	3907	19004

- 2.2 3907 (21%) of enrolments are being delivered as non-accredited Community Learning by 8 providers with overall funding allocations totalling £2,780,556. This funding is based on historical funding allocations passed on to NTCA from the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).
- 2.3 NTCA recognise the value and positive impact that informal non-accredited community learning can have. It continues to provide outreach into disadvantaged communities, wrap around support and training to enable learners to succeed and progress.
- 2.4 We are working closely with providers in receipt of funding agreements for Community Learning to better understand this provision and have implemented an additional data collection to assess the purpose, outcomes, and costs for this provision. We aim to use this data to assess value for money and track outcomes for this academic year and to inform delivery plans going forward into AY 2023-24.
- 2.5 15,097 (79%) of enrolments are being delivered as Adult Skills provision. Enrolment patterns during the first 6-month period August 2022 to February 2023 are very similar to the previous academic year with peaks in September and January as expected. Chart 1 below compares the number of courses started by month from August 2022 to January 2023, with the previous period in AY 2021-22.
- 2.6 This pattern suggests that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on participation that occurred in AY 2020-21 has subsided. Enrolment counts in Adult Skills provision at the end of AY 2022-23 are likely to be on par with AY 2021-22.

Chart 1



- 2.7 The AEB investment continues to reach residents most disadvantaged in terms of poverty and skills. 8692 (46%) of enrolments are being undertaken by residents with a home postcode in the top 10% deprived wards across NTCA. 10,306 (55%) of enrolments are undertaken by residents with no or low qualifications,
- 2.8 We have established a wider range of provision to support unemployed residents with skills directly linked to local labour market demand. In the first 6 months of this academic year 73% of enrolments were undertaken by unemployed residents, with 51% of these residents unemployed and actively seeking work.
- 2.9 NTCA are working closely with providers to align the devolved AEB offer to wider skills investments such as Skills Bootcamps and to promote collaboration with employers in designing skills opportunities.
- 2.10 Providers have responded well and developed routes into sectors such as Engineering and Manufacturing Technology. Enrolments in this area have already increased in the first half of the academic year, with more courses designed to meet skills shortages and employment vacancies in vehicle maintenance and rail track engineering.
- 2.11 A wider offer is available in the Digital and Technology sector with new course additions such as Cyber Security and Coding. NTCA has also undertaken further commissioning to increase the range of qualifications in the Level 3 Free Courses for Jobs offer. This includes technical certificates in green construction methods, developing skills to work with heat pump technology.
- 2.12 Further detailed analysis of the 6-month delivery data is included in Appendix 2 of this report. The analysis demonstrates that the AEB continues to support delivery of [NTCA's Strategic Skills Plan](#) and the [NTCA Corporate Plan 2022-23](#).

3 Profile of residents engaged in AEB to 4 Feb 2023

3.1 Analysis of the profile of residents engaged in AEB provision during the first six months of AY 2022-23 demonstrates that the investment continues to extend the reach of learning opportunities to a broad range of underrepresented groups:

- 2761 (15%) of AEB opportunities were undertaken by young people (19-24)
- 58% of AEB enrolment opportunities were undertaken by women
- 9437 (68%) of enrolment opportunities were undertaken by residents from our black and minoritised ethnic communities
- 3834 residents (21%) participating in provision self-declared a learning difficulty/disabilities
- 55% of enrolments undertaken by residents with low or no qualifications

3.2 NTCA continues to develop and implement a range of locally focused initiatives, aligned with ongoing policy developments and supporting evidence to target over and above the main statutory entitlements of the AEB.

4 Managing AEB delivery for the remainder of the academic year

4.1 Key priorities for the remainder of the academic year include:

- Continue to work closely with the NTCA provider base to develop improved analysis of Community Learning, with a focus on positive outcomes and value for money
- Work collaboratively to better respond to employer skills/talent needs, specifically in the NTCA growth and foundation economy sectors
- Continue to develop a better understanding of residents' barriers to accessing adult education and skills provision and working collaboratively with employers, skills providers and other stakeholders to respond directly to local challenges and remove these barriers to learning

5 Post-16 Skills Flexible Procurement Framework

5.1 In November 2022 NTCA launched a procurement exercise inviting a wide range of organisations including Further Education (FE) Colleges, Independent Training Providers (ITPs), Voluntary and Community Sector (VCSE) organisations and other stakeholders to tender for a place on a Flexible Procurement Framework for skills provision.

5.2 Organisations were able to submit tenders for a place on the Framework as potential suppliers of skills provision commissioned by NTCA. This includes provision funded through devolved AEB, Skills Bootcamps, UKSPF, Multiply and investment funds for skills.

5.3 The open tender closed in December 2022; 225 tenders were received across the seven Lots included in the Framework. Evaluation of the tenders will complete at end of February 2023; mini competitions will be held in March 2023 to 'call-off' providers from the Framework to deliver devolved AEB from 1st August 2023.

5.4 This successful exercise has ensured that NTCA has access to wide and diverse range of organisations including VCSE to deliver skills interventions across a number of funding streams including AEB. It will enable NTCA to rapidly deploy funding as it becomes available and to ensure there is a skills supply that is responsive to skills demand and aligns with commissioning principles set out in the NTCA Strategic Skills Plan.

B. Impact on NTCA Objectives

1. AEB links directly to NTCA's strategic priorities and supports the Education, Inclusion & Skills delivery theme of NTCA's Corporate Plan. We want everyone to have the opportunity to thrive, with access to good employment and progression. Supporting the availability of good quality, well paid work, whilst providing the right support for people to access these jobs and further training is crucial to our economic and social success.

C. Key risks

1. AEB Devolution features as a strategic risk on the NTCA Strategic Risk Register. In addition, at a project level, appropriate risk management processes are in place to identify and mitigate risks, with escalation requirements embedded.

D. Financial and other resources implications

1. Table 2 illustrates the total devolved AEB budget including the delegated Free Course for Jobs and includes funded allocated to 31 July 2023.

Table 2

AEB devolved from DfE to NTCA for AY 2022-23	£23,586,795
3% Administration costs	£707,604
AEB allocations to Grant providers AY 2022/23	£15,550,125
AEB allocations to Contract for Services in Lot 1 Unemployed	£4,035,363
AEB allocations to Contract for Services in Lot 2 Employed	£2,722,919
AEB allocations to Contract for Services in Lot 3 Innovation	£1,202,954
Total devolved AEB allocated AY 2022-23 (including admin costs)	£24,218,965
Funding reconciled in AY 2021-22 carried into AY 2022-23	£2,868,168
AEB devolved from DfE remaining to allocate	£2,235,998

Delegated Free Courses for Jobs Offer from DfE To NTCA for AY 2022-23	£1,959,315
L3 Free Courses for Jobs Allocations AY 2022-23	£1,121,566
Delegated Level 3 Adult Offer remaining to allocate AY 2022-23	£837,749

2. NTCA are exploring a number of options for consideration in relation to further funding flexibilities and the management of unallocated funding in AY 2022-23. In line with the scheme of delegation in place for AEB, a Delegated Decision report will be submitted with a proposed approach.

E. Legal implications

1. The grant funding process in relation to allocating the devolved AEB has been undertaken in accordance with all relevant legal requirements. A robust set of funding terms and conditions have been developed to protect NTCA's position.
2. Procurement processes for Contracts for Service have been undertaken pursuant to the NTCA Order and Constitution and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. In accordance with those legal requirements, contract for service awards have been based on the most economically advantageous tender.

3. The Interim Monitoring Officer's representative has advised throughout these processes (both procurement and grant funding) and attends the NTCA AEB Operational Steering Group on a weekly basis. There are no negative legal implications associated with either process.

F. Equalities implications

1. As required by Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the NTCA has considered its obligations regarding the Public Sector Equality Duty and there will be no anticipated negative impact on groups with protected characteristics from these proposals.
2. Each organisation the NTCA will contract with will be required by law to meet all relevant requirements in the workplace in respect of equalities. Through the Due Diligence process, we have sought assurance from each provider that they have appropriate policies in place which protect and champion equality within their service.
3. In addition, we will encourage all companies we work with to be mindful of our commitment to equalities and direct them to guidance provided by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/guidance-businesses>

G. Inclusive Economy and Wellbeing implications

1. The NTCA believe the approach taken will positively contribute to creating a more inclusive economy in the North of Tyne with specific positive impact on addressing inequalities in skills and qualifications across the area.
2. The AEB is being used to better equip residents with low or no qualifications in the North of Tyne with the skills required to participate in our key recovery and growth sectors. The alignment of provision towards the North of Tyne growth sectors will better meet the needs of our businesses and in turn provide residents with clearer opportunities to contribute to and benefit from economic growth now and in the future.
3. The NTCA will continue to monitor the impact of the AEB on the inclusive economy aspirations as part of all performance management processes.
4. In due course, all providers will be invited to commit to the NTCA Good Work Pledge to advance their contributions as employers to the NTCA's inclusive economy aspirations.

H. Climate Change implications

1. The NTCA has considered the implications relating to climate change in decisions regarding allocation of the AEB and believe there will be no negative impact as a result. All providers are required to provide assurance that they have an environmental and sustainability policy.
2. In all procurement exercises, applicants were appraised on their commitments to climate change as part of Social Value. With the impact of COVID-19, early indication shows the provider base in the NTCA area have significantly increased the use of online learning as a means of delivery. Although no measurements are in place, the NTCA understand this will likely reduce carbon emissions associated with staff and learner travel.

I. Consultation and engagement

1. NTCA have established effective working relationships with NTCA Grant and Contracted providers to gain Insight and intelligence to inform funding flexibilities and additional provision made available through the AEB.

2. NTCA officers maintain regular contact with relevant stakeholders including the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, Skills Providers, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the Department for Education (DfE) and Employers. This supports co-ordination of vacancy opportunities and skills development.
3. NTCA AEB officers attend regular meetings with DfE, the ESFA and other Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) to share information and best practice.
4. NTCA will continue to work collaboratively with national strategic partners and local stakeholders to align the devolved AEB with other funding streams and activity to ensure it complements, rather than duplicates the wider learning experiences and opportunities aimed at supporting our residents to progress in learning and to move towards or into productive and sustained employment.

J. Appendices

Appendix 1: Devolved AEB Providers and Funding Allocations AY 2022-23

Appendix 2: Detailed Analysis of Delivery Data from 1 August 2022 to 4 February 2023

K. Background papers

AEB Strategic Skills Plan 'Opportunity for All'

AEB Cabinet papers 24th April 2019, 4th June 2019, 30th July 2019, 22nd October 2019, 25th

February 2020, 28th July 2020 and 29th September 2020, 23rd March 2021, 30th November 2021,

March 2022, 22nd Nov 2022

L. Contact officer(s)

Michelle Stone, Skills Lead michelle.stone@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

M. Glossary

AEB	Adult Education Budget
AY	Academic Year
DfE	Department for Education
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
ESFA	Education and Skills Funding Agency
ESOL	English for Speakers of other Languages
FE	Further Education
ITP	Independent Training Provider
JCP	Job Centre Plus
LLDD	Learners with learning difficulties or disabilities
MCA	Mayoral Combined Authorities
NTCA	North of Tyne Combined Authority
VCSE	Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 1 – Devolved AEB Providers and Funding Allocations AY 2022-23

UKPRN	Grant funded provider name	Allocation
10001475	Education Partnership (Northumberland College)	£1,318,313
10002638	Gateshead College	£642,595
10002639	Gateshead Council	£154,342
10004601	Newcastle City Council	£3,035,981
10053962	Newcastle College	£5,254,682
10004714	North Tyneside Metropolitan Council	£1,938,476
10004762	Northumberland County Council	£1,134,672
10006000	South Tyneside Council	£454,376
10005999	Tyne Coast College	£1,265,836
10007364	Workers Educational Association	£350,852
Total		£15,550,125

UKPRN	Procured Contract for Service provider name	AEB allocation AY 2022-23			
		Lot 1 Unemployed	Lot 2 Employed	Lot 3 Innovation	Total
10037140	Action Foundation			£35,000	£35,000
10033156	Back 2 Work	£149,820			£149,820
10000488	B-Skill Limited		£253,270		£253,270
10037364	CECOS Computing International Ltd.	£343,173	£497,394		£840,567
10002111	East Durham College		£101,275		£101,275
10061648	FIRST Face to Face Ltd.			£90,000	£90,000
10002638	Gateshead College		£497,333		£497,333
10021665	Health & Safety Training Ltd.	£648,340			£648,340
10003593	Key Training Ltd.		£756,079		£756,079
10008935	Learning Curve Group Ltd.	£499,286			£499,286
10004576	New College Durham	£647,055	£104,700		£751,755
10004714	North Tyneside Metropolitan Council			£149,764	£149,764
10001039	Northumberland Business Service Ltd.			£155,000	£155,000
10036431	PeoplePlus Group Ltd.	£497,520			£497,520
10025330	Release Potential Limited	£578,520		£299,970	£878,490
10024686	Resource North East	£574,425			£574,425
10028094	Skills North East	£97,224	£213,040		£310,264
10006576	The Alnwick Garden Trust			£31,000	£31,000
10085200	The Cedarwood Trust			£382,000	£382,000
10025197	University Centre Quayside Ltd.		£299,828		£299,828
10000532	Barnardos			£60,220	£60,220
Totals		£4,035,363	£2,722,919	£1,202,954	£7,961,236

Level 3 Adult Offer (Free Courses for Jobs) AY 2022-23	
Provider Name	Indicative allocations
B-Skill Limited	£12,578
CECOS Computing International Ltd	£16,691
East Durham College	£4,800
Education Partnership North East	£73,856
Gateshead College	£48,687
Key Training Ltd	£21,203
Learning Curve Group Ltd.	£51,684
New College Durham	£357,453
Newcastle City Council	£45,000
Newcastle College	£155,663
North Tyneside Metropolitan Council	£21,151
Northumberland County Council	£25,000
Resource (NE) Limited	£186,621
Skills North East	£22,833
South Tyneside Council	£44,055
Tyne Coast College	£34,291
Totals	£1,121,566

Appendix 2: Analysis of Delivery Data from 1 August 2022 to 4 February 2023

1 AY 2022-23 AEB enrolment opportunities

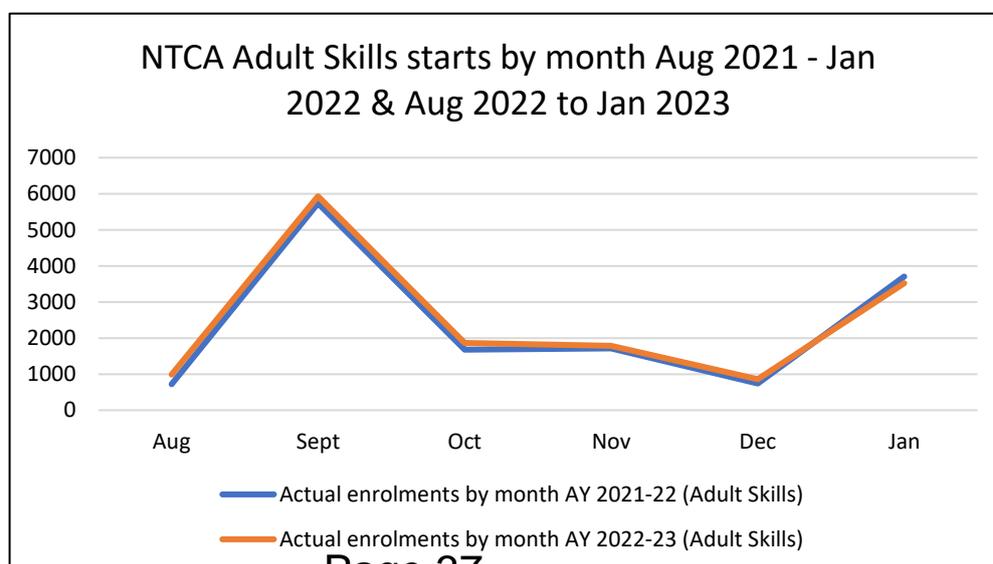
- 1.1 In the 6-month period from 1 August 2022 to 4 February 2023 over 19,000 enrolment opportunities have been delivered or are being undertaken.
- 1.2 NTCA providers have delivered a range of provision targeting employed and unemployed residents including statutory entitlements in maths, English and digital skills and full Level 2 and Level 3 vocational programmes required to access the labour market or progress in work.
- 1.3 Table 1 illustrates the overall number of enrolments by Local Authority area and funding model.

Table 1

Enrolments by Local Authority	R06 - Feb 2023		
	AEB Adult Skills	Community Learning	Total
Newcastle	8627	2492	11119
North Tyneside	3041	733	3774
Northumberland	3429	682	4111
Total	15097	3907	19004

- 1.4 3907 (21%) of these are being delivered as Community Learning by 8 providers with overall funding allocations totalling £2,780,556. This funding is based on historical funding allocations passed on to NTCA from the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).
- 1.5 NTCA recognise the value and positive impact that informal non-accredited community learning can have. It continues to provide outreach into disadvantaged communities, wrap around support and training to enable learners to succeed and progress.
- 1.6 Adult Skills enrolment patterns during this first 6-month period August 2022 to February 2023 are very similar to the previous academic year with peaks in September and January as expected. Chart 1 below compares the number of courses started by month from August 2022 to January 2023, with the previous period in AY 2021-22.
- 1.7 This pattern suggests that the impact of the pandemic during AY 2020-21 on participation has subsided, enrolment counts in Adult Skills provision at the end of AY 2022-23 are likely to be on par with AY 2021-22.

Chart 1

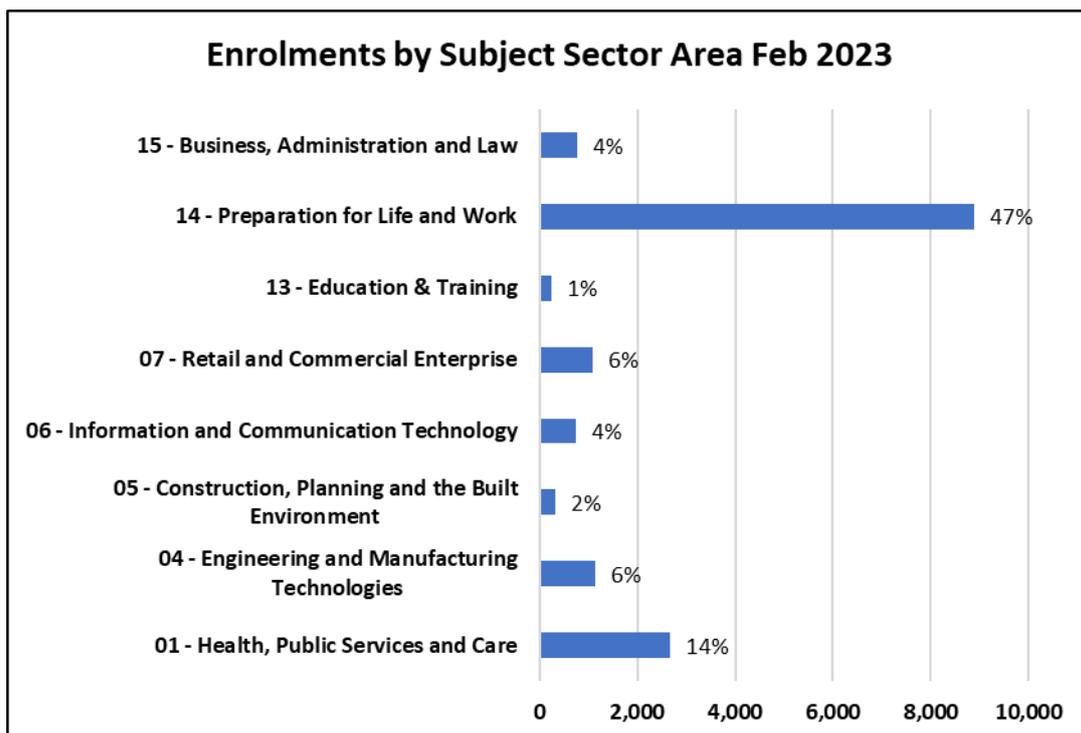


- 1.8 Delivery data is also analysed at Ward level to ensure that enrolment opportunities are being undertaken by residents in our most deprived areas. 8692 (46%) of enrolments are being undertaken by residents with a home postcode in the top 10% deprived wards across NTCA.
- 1.9 Delivery data is also analysed at Ward Level to monitor engagement in AEB by residents in communities that are outside urban centres. This data suggests a significant proportion of residents living outside of urban centres are engaging with provision.
- 1.10 All NTCA AEB providers are required to submit delivery plans which outline how they will make their provision accessible for residents in communities outside of urban centres. This includes on-line and distance learning, support with transport and good use of Community venues across Northumberland and North Tyneside in places such as Alnwick, Amble, Berwick, Rothbury, Pegswood, Morpeth, Wooler, Hexham, Haltwhistle and Whitley Bay.

2 Range of provision

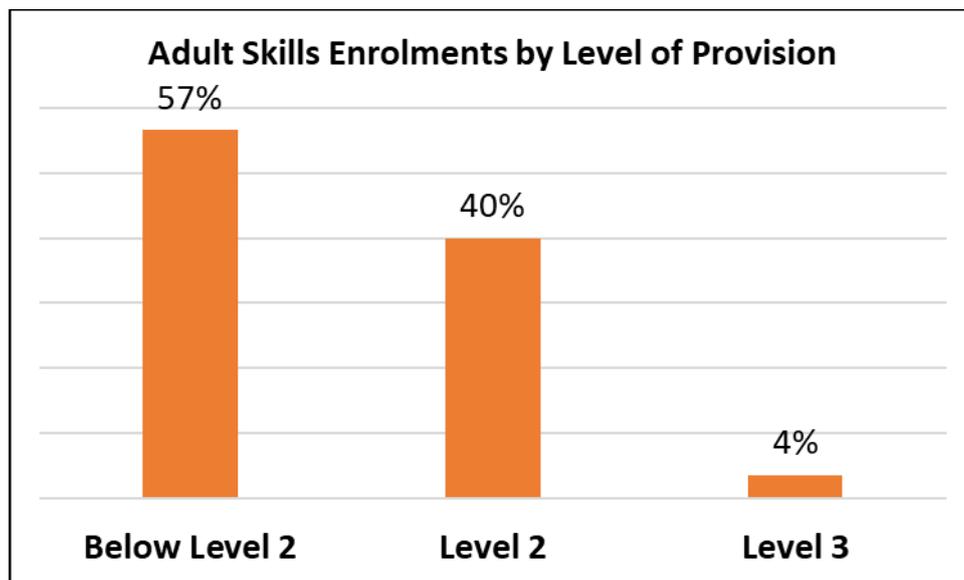
- 2.1 Providers deliver a range of provision targeting employed and unemployed residents including basic maths, English and digital skills and full Level 2 and Level 3 vocational programmes required for work. There are effective links to Job Centre Plus (JCP) work coaches across the region who help promote the AEB offer and refer unemployed residents.
- 2.2 We have established a wider range of provision to support unemployed residents with skills directly linked to local labour market demand. In the first 6 months of this academic year 73% of enrolments were undertaken by unemployed residents, with 51% of these residents unemployed and actively seeking work.
- 2.3 Chart 2 below illustrates the range of provision by subject sector area during this first 6-month period August 2022 to February 2023 in AY 2022-23.

Chart 2



- 2.4 Subject sector area (SSA) 14 – Preparation for Life and Work accounts for 47% of all enrolment opportunities. This provision includes all English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL), Functional Skills Qualifications in English, maths and Digital skills as well as sector routeways back to employment in vocational areas such as health and social care, hospitality, warehousing and construction.
- 2.5 Providers have responded well and developed routes into sectors such as Engineering and Manufacturing Technology. Enrolments in this area have already increased in the first half of the academic year, with more courses designed to meet skills shortages and employment vacancies in vehicle maintenance and rail track engineering.
- 2.6 A wider offer is available in the Digital and Technology sector with new course additions such as Cyber Security and Coding. NTCA has also undertaken further commissioning to increase the range of qualifications in the Level 3 Free Courses for Jobs offer. This includes technical certificates in green construction methods, developing skills to work with heat pump technology. .
- 2.7 We continue to monitor provision by level to ensure there is a balance between low-level non-technical provision below level 2 and progression to opportunities to provision at Level 2 and above.
- 2.8 Chart 3 illustrates the level of provision during this first 6-month period August 2022 to February 2023 in AY 2022-23.

Chart 3



3 Statutory Entitlements

- 3.1 The AEB continues to provide free statutory entitlements which include digital, maths, English and English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL). Participation in basic maths, English and ESOL has also increased, alongside young people aged between 19 and 24 undertaking full Level 2 and Level 3 entitlements.
- 3.2 Table 2 below illustrates statutory entitlement enrolment opportunities in this first 6-month period August 2022 to February 2023 in AY 2022-23.

Table 2

Statutory Entitlements	Number of enrolments
English	516
Maths	548
ESOL	4402
Digital Entitlement	95
Full Level 2 Entitlement	286
Full Level 3 Entitlement	175
Level 3 Adult Offer	281
Total	6303

- 3.3 NTCA will continue to develop and implement a range of locally focused initiatives, aligned with ongoing policy developments and supporting evidence to target over and above the main statutory entitlements of the AEB.

4 Profile of residents engaged in AEB

- 4.1 Analysis of the profile of residents engaged in AEB provision during the first 6 months of AY 2022-23 demonstrates that the investment continues to extend the reach of learning opportunities to a broad range of underrepresented groups:

- 2761 (15%) of AEB opportunities were undertaken by young people (19-24)
- 58% of AEB enrolment opportunities were undertaken by women
- 9437 (68%) of enrolment opportunities were undertaken by residents from our black and minoritised ethnic communities
- 3834 residents (21%) participating in provision self-declared a learning difficulty/disabilities
- 55% of enrolments undertaken by residents with low or no qualifications

- 4.2 AEB provision is supporting women who are out of work and/or returning to work with a range of provision both informal to build confidence and maximise transferable skills and formal learning opportunities leading to qualifications. **68% of female enrolments were unemployed in the six months to February 2023.**

- 4.3 The devolved AEB has enabled NTCA to offer a low wage flexibility for residents who earn less than the 'real' living wage. This provides full funding for employed residents who are on a low wage and may not have engaged in learning due to course fees being unaffordable. **1074 enrolment opportunities were eligible for the low wage flexibility to February 2023.**

- 4.4 **Over 3800 (21%) of AEB enrolment opportunities are accessed by residents who have self-declared a learning difficult/disability.** This is a 4-percentage point increase on the previous academic year. Further work will be undertaken in AY 2022-23 to understand the barriers to learning and employment that our residents with disabilities face to ensure that AEB provision for these residents is truly accessible and inclusive for all.

5 Outcomes for residents undertaking AEB provision

- 5.1 We continue to work with providers to ensure that a greater focus on the economic and social outcomes is secured through the devolved AEB rather than just the outputs in terms of qualifications delivered. This underpins our commissioning approach to secure provision which is increasingly focused on outcomes, such as securing employment, progressing to higher levels of learning and progressing in employment.
- 5.2 Complete outcome data from the devolved AEB delivery during AY 2022-23 will be reported to Cabinet in the annual update in November 2023.

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject: NTCA 2021-22 Statement of Accounts
 Report of: Director of Finance
 Portfolio: Investment and Resources

Report Summary

The intention of this report was to present Cabinet with the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 and the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22. At the time of writing this report the audit on the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts was substantially complete and the external auditors (Mazars) tabled their draft Audit Completion Report (ACR) to the January Audit and Standards Committee with no significant issues raised, and an unqualified opinion is still anticipated. However, work on the Pension fund is still to be finalised in addition to agreeing the amendments in relation to the infrastructure assets issue that was raised nationally. Due to the ongoing delay in the external auditor being able to finalise their work this report provides the Mayor and Cabinet with an update on progress and revised timelines for conclusion of the audit work.

Recommendations

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the update on the work to complete the audit of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 Statement of Accounts and Value for Money Conclusion.

A. Context

1. Strategic Background and Context

- 1.1 The NTCA Statement of Accounts sets out the financial performance of the Authority for the year ending 31 March 2022 and its financial position at that date. They have been prepared in accordance with proper practices as set out in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code).
- 1.2 The 2021/22 audit of the Statement of Accounts is substantially complete, with no issues arising. Cabinet will recall that the two areas of audit work causing delay in completing the audit were regarding Infrastructure Asset valuation for 2020-21 and 2021-22, and the Pension Fund Audit for 2021-22.
- 1.3 A national approach to the infrastructure issue was agreed early this year and officers at NECA prepared the relevant adjustments in consultation with authority officers. NTCA's external auditors, Mazars, have concluded their review of the proposed approach and this will be rolled forward into the 2020/21 accounts through to 2021/22. Mazars do not anticipate any difficulties with this.
- 1.4 The Pension Fund auditor assurance remains the key item causing delay. Mazars had been expecting the assurance work undertaken by a different firm of auditors, to be completed by the end of February, but have very recently been advised that they are likely to get this by mid-late March 2023. Whilst the indications are that fieldwork has been complete for some time with no reportable amendments, the delay is the internal review processes.
- 1.5 Due to the delay in completing the audit work there is a requirement to review and update the Annual Governance Statement to consider any governance issues that may have arisen since the draft accounts were published. At the current time there is no indication of any such issues arising.

- 1.6 On this basis Mazars anticipate being able to take an updated Audit Completion report to the April meeting of the Audit and Standards committee then on to Cabinet. The Audit Completion report will cover the 2020-21 and 2021-22 position.
- 1.7 Mazars also expect to bring a finalised draft Value for Money report to Cabinet, this can only be finalised once the Statement of Accounts are approved by Cabinet.

B. Impact on NTCA Objectives

1. There is no direct impact on NTCA objectives.

C. Key Risks

1. There are no specific risks relating to this report.

D. Financial and Other Resources Implications

1. The Statement of Accounts were prepared by North Tyneside Council via an SLA to the North of Tyne Combined Authority. There are no other financial implications arising from this report

E. Legal Implications

1. The Authority is required to agree a balanced budget annually and to monitor that budget throughout the year. The Authority must also make provision for an adequate level of un-earmarked reserves. It is also required to ensure that good financial governance arrangements are in place.

F. Equalities Implications

1. There are no direct equalities implications arising from the recommendations in this report. However, NTCA is mindful of its duty under the Public Sector Equality Duty and when undertaking scrutiny of a particular topic looks to see that any policy/event/decision eliminates discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advances equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and fosters good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and also considers the implications for people from different socio-economic backgrounds/low pay as a protected characteristic.

G. Inclusive Economy Implications

1. There are no direct inclusive economy implications arising from the recommendations in this report. However, NTCA is mindful of their inclusive economy ambitions and the five characteristics of an inclusive economy: participation; equity; growth; stability and sustainability.

F. Climate Change Implications

1. There is no direct climate changed implications arising from the recommendations in this report. However, NTCA is mindful that the three constituent Local Authorities have declared a Climate Emergency and when undertaking scrutiny of a particular topic looks to see that any policy/event/decision has taken climate change fully into account.

G. Consultation and Engagement

1. The Draft Statement of Accounts have been published on the NTCA Website and the Chief Executive, the Mayor and Cabinet, Monitoring Officer and Director of Finance and Audit and Standards Committee have been consulted on the draft 2020/21 and 2021/22 Draft Statement of Accounts.

H. Appendices

1. None

G. Background Papers

2021-22 Draft Audit Completion Report
2021-22 Annual Governance Statement
2021-22 Draft Statement of Accounts including Narrative Statement

H. Contact Officers

Janice Gillespie, Director of Finance, e-mail address: Janice.gillespie@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk
Katy Laing, Strategic Finance Manager, e-mail address: Katherine.laing@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

I. Glossary

ACR Audit Completion Report
AGS Annual Governance Statement
NECA North East Combined Authority
NTCA North of Tyne Combined Authority
SLA Service Level Agreement

This page is intentionally left blank